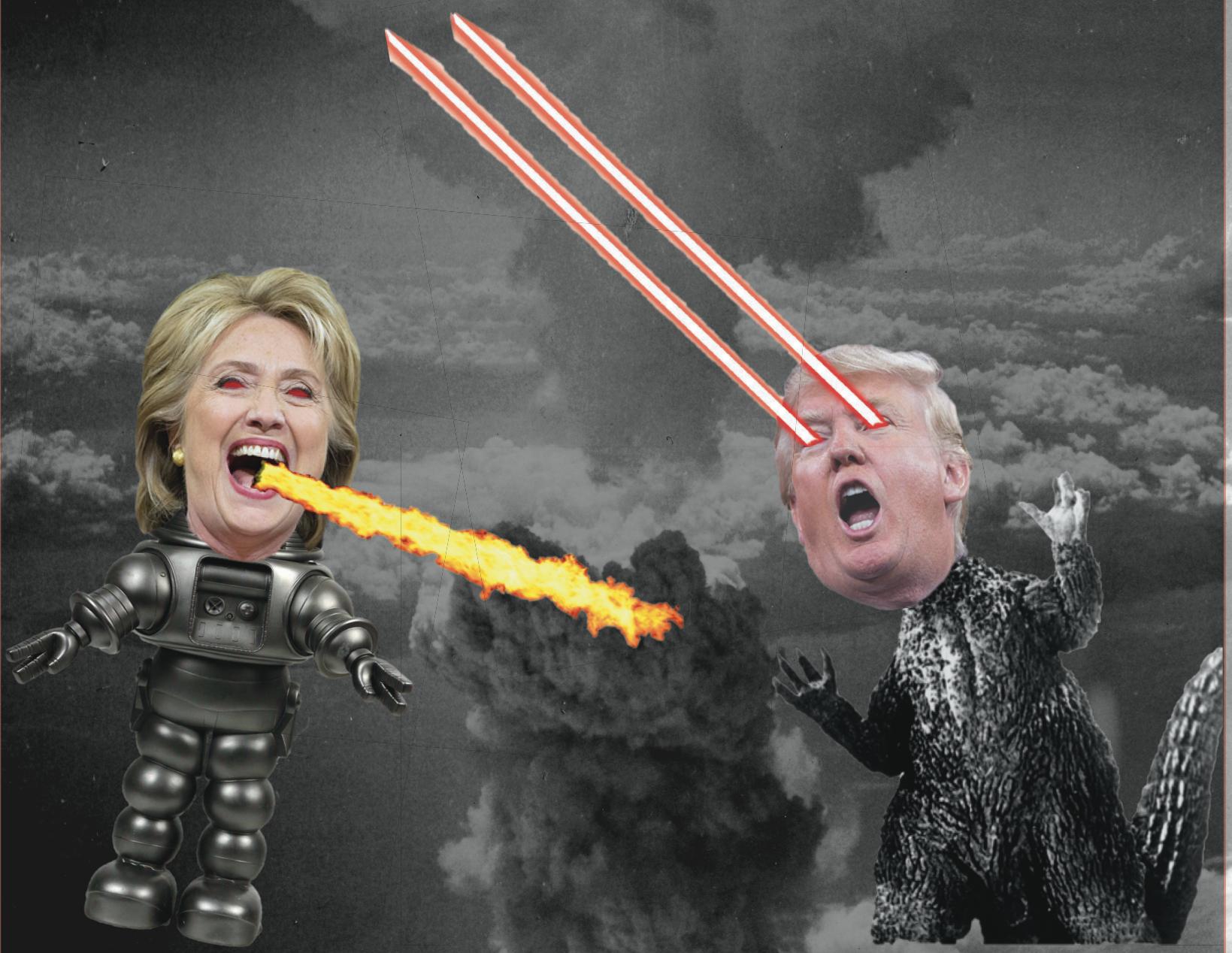




# THE DOOM ISSUE

The Student Insurgent • Volume 27 Issue 2 • Spring 2016



“The sun is the past, the earth is the present, the moon is the future. From an incandescent mass we have originated, and into a frozen mass we shall turn. Merciless is the law of nature, and rapidly and irresistibly we are drawn to our **doom**.” - Nikola Tesla

# happy spring! let's talk about DOOM

Meet the Student Insurgent editors!

**Augustine** is actually two small children in a trench coat

**Eva** is known to take naps in public places and claim she has narcolepsy when hassled by police

**Laura** is legally allowed to perform veterinary surgery on rodents, reptiles, and invertebrates

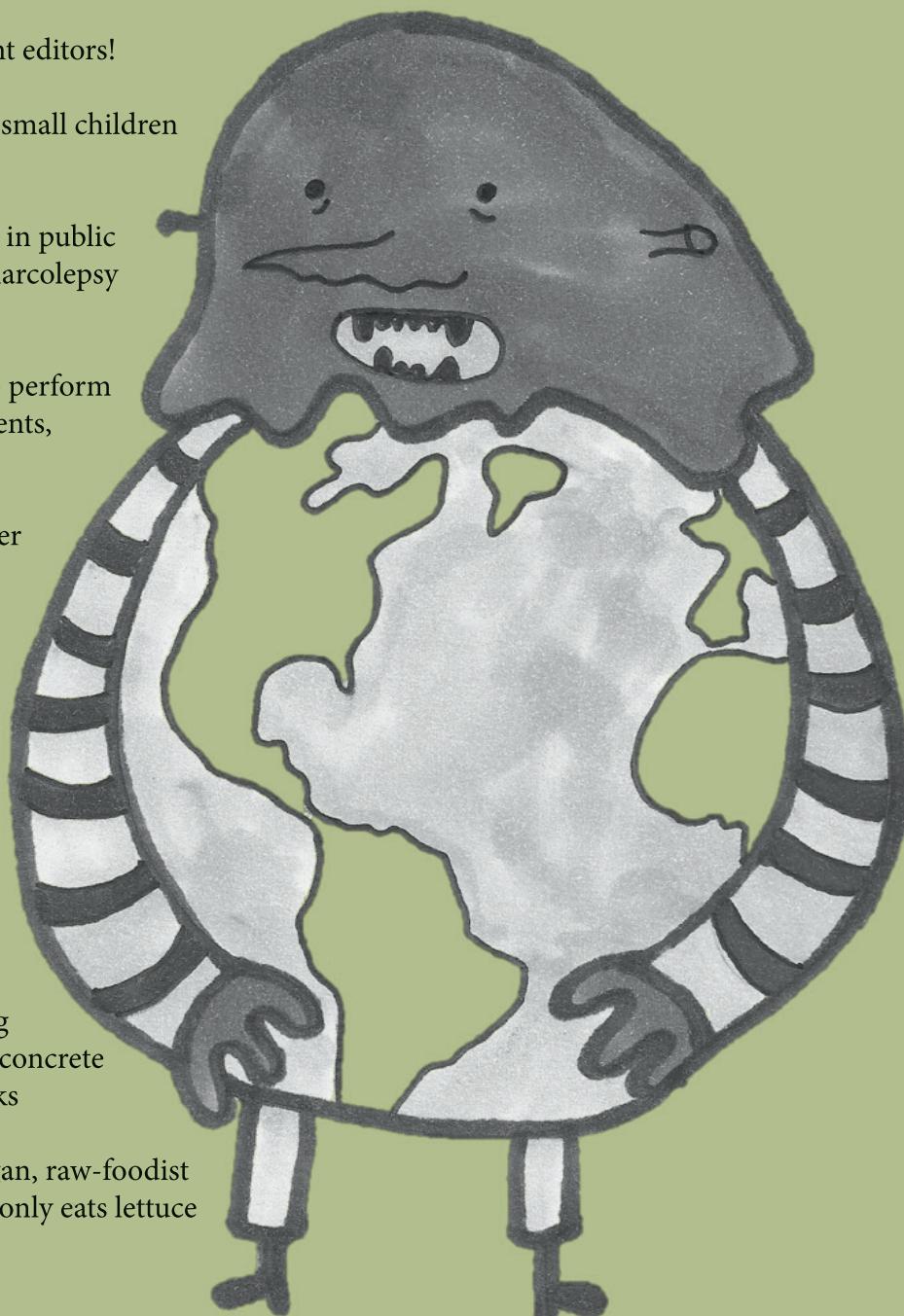
**Amber** puts seawater in her cereal instead of milk

**Jake** is skeptical of the scientific consensus on spontaneous human combustion

**Derek** is an engineering major and is morally opposed to the concept of sex robots

**Jess** is addicted to chewing gum that she finds on the concrete and the undersides of desks

**Julian** is a gluten-free, vegan, raw-foodist who is allergic to nuts; he only eats lettuce



The *Student Insurgent* is a radical magazine of news, art, and opinion published by a horizontal editorial collective of students at the University of Oregon. We publish essays, fiction, poetry, reporting, and art submitted by students, prisoners, and anyone else who wishes to have their voice heard. We are revolutionary anti-capitalist, anti-racist, Earth-defending, feminist anti-authoritarians. We are interested in destroying hierarchy, oppression, authority, and exploitation wherever they exist and encourage you, dear reader, to do the same!

Our publications are distributed freely to Eugene community members, prisoners, and University of Oregon students. For all others, a one-time \$15 payment by mail buys a lifetime subscription.

If you would like your material to be considered for publication, email or snailmail any content you'd like to submit to the address below. We reserve the right to edit any submissions for grammar, clarity, or length. Poetry and art will not be edited or censored in any way. All articles, with the exception of unsigned editorials, solely reflect the opinion of the author and not necessarily that of the *Student Insurgent*.

Due to a high volume of mail as well as rapid management and structural change, we have been unable to respond to all mail that comes in. If we do not respond, it doesn't necessarily mean we didn't read or receive it. We apologize and thank you for your patience.

**studentinsurgent@gmail.com : studentinsurgent.tumblr.com : 1228 East University Street, Eugene, OR 97403**

# student insurgent.

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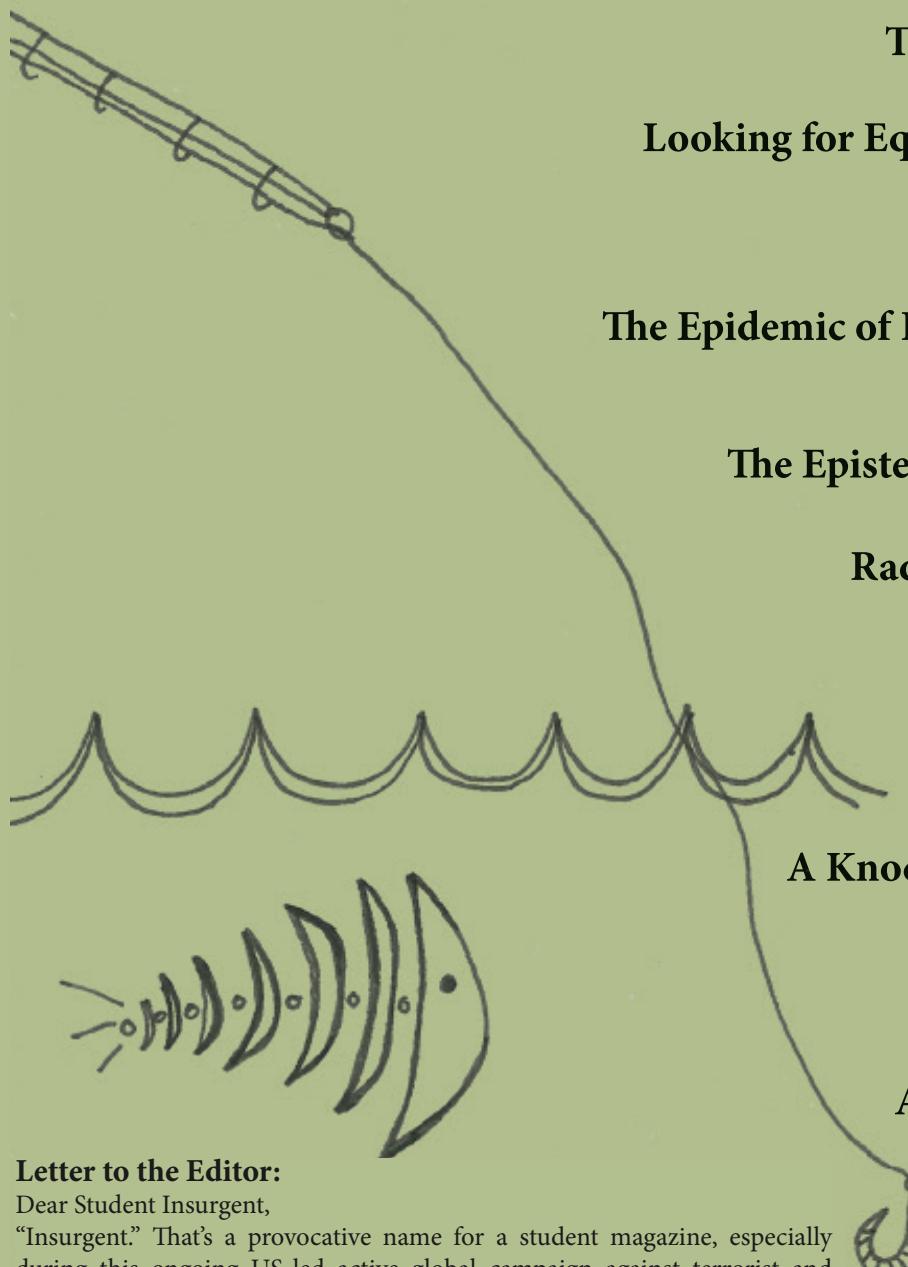
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### **Letter to the Editor:**

Dear Student Insurgent,

“Insurgent.” That’s a provocative name for a student magazine, especially during this ongoing US-led active global campaign against terrorist and “insurgent” groups. That said, I commend the boldness in name selection. Way to stand up for your gay, communist, insurgent rights (just kidding). On a serious note, I’m not gay, but I support gay rights. Also I’m not a communist but I support their rights to political activism too. Effectively, not knowing exactly what your magazine is about forces me now to have to request a copy of your next edition. Then once I get it I will know once and for all if, in fact, you were properly standing up for your gay, communist, insurgent rights when you selected the name Insurgent or not. Take care and stay active. Thank you.

Sincerely, Raymond Frost



# IN DEFENSE OF CYNICISM

"I know things are bad, but they're not that bad." "Yeah there are problems with the world, but things are definitely improving." "The world today isn't perfect, but things are definitely better than they've ever been."

It's an argument that I've encountered numerous times while discussing topics from feminism to international health to hip hop music. And even if the explicit wording isn't there, often the implication is. Of all the over-generalizing, unfalsifiable, sweeping

claims, this one irks me the most. For a while I couldn't put my finger on it, but every time a conversation ended this way, I felt that something was missing. I thought, "Maybe I'm just a cynical asshole." While this is probably true, I realized that it's not so much the optimism as it is the universalizing optimism. It's the mentality that because some trends demonstrate progress, the general trend of the world is progress. I take no issue with the optimism, only with the universalizing attitude that optimists and proponents



of the status quo maintain. There are three serious problems with this fallacious thinking.

First, it relies on metrics or data that are always incomplete. In reality, there are too many trends, too many perspectives observing trends, and too many possibilities of what constitutes progress to determine a general trend of goodness. You could claim that the economy is getting better over time, pointing to increased consumer spending and employment rates since the 2008 recession. I could claim it's getting worse, pointing to the decrease in wages for black Americans in the past fifteen years by 44 cents and the fact that the racial income gap has increased since the recession.

Further, many changes in society do not fit nicely into a progress/regress paradigm. For example, while increased visibility of trans folk means that it's easier for these people to have their voices heard, it has come at the cost of many states now taking it upon themselves to police gender and force people into the wrong bathroom. Progress and reaction occur simultaneously.

Second, this mentality inherently globalizes the local. It extrapolates from a few phenomena, projecting them on to the broadest possible scale. Let's take women's rights for example. We could say the wage gap has narrowed from about 60% in 1960 to 78% today. Roe v Wade marked a seminal turning point for the rights women have over their own bodies. Based on this, among many other statistics, the universal optimist would conclude "women's rights are getting better over time." For one, this is true if you only look at the US. Consider the condition of women in Syria who are currently living in what experts and journalists are calling a "rape crisis." Rape has become a prolific weapon of war and oppression by every

side. To say "women's rights have improved" ignores the experiences of women everywhere. Further, even if we modify the statement to "women's rights have improved in the US," we ignore intersectionality and marginalize the perspectives of women of color in America. Real wages for black people have declined, the wage gap is still at the level it was for white women in 1960, and the defunding of Planned Parenthood has disproportionately affected southern black women. Thus, an affirmation of universalizing optimism will always be too broad.

Third, universalizing optimism in effect naturalizes progress as a trend transcendent of human agency and intention. In the statement, "things are getting better," the condition of society is the subject. Removing human agency, we risk forgetting that societal progress or regress does not happen absent of intention and action. People fight for progress, and reactionaries fight back. While semantic, this point is significant. Universal optimists rhetorically construct their argument to be only descriptive of the change rather than providing any analysis of who and what drives the change.

We at the Student Insurgent say fuck this shit. We won't idly sit by and watch the universal optimists prance around pat themselves on the back for what a great job everyone is doing. We seek to deconstruct the systems of oppression and power that guarantee the inevitable doom hanging over our existence like a wrecking ball hung by the dental floss. However, we refuse to generalize our cynicism in the same way as the universalizing optimist hippies. With every issue in society, there is a solution. And with every fucked up, oppressive institution, there is someone fighting it.

- Augustine Beard

**"The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds, and the pessimist fears this is true."**  
-James Branch Cabell

THIS IS THE WAY THE  
WORLD ENDS

THIS IS THE WAY THE  
WORLD ENDS

THIS IS THE WAY THE  
WORLD ENDS

NOT WITH A BANG  
BUT WITH . . .

# A

ALIEN ABDUCTION  
ALLIGATORS  
ADDICTION  
ANARCHO-CAPITALISTS  
ARSON

# E

ENTROPY  
an EMBRACE  
EVOLUTION  
EXPONENTIAL GROWTH  
ECSTASY

# I

INTERGALACTIC WAR  
INEVITABLE HEAT DEATH  
INFERNO  
IGNORANCE

# M

MOLOTOV COCKTAILS  
the MEAT INDUSTRY  
MELTING ICE CAPS  
a giant METEOR  
MASSACRE

# Q

QUARANTINE  
QUACKERY  
QUICKSAND

# U

UNICORNS  
UNILATERAL MILITARY  
INTERVENTION  
UNSAFE SEX  
UFOs

# Y

a YODEL  
Y2K  
a YELP  
YUPPIES

# B

BULLDOZERS  
BILLIONAIRES  
BALLISTICS  
BEDTIME  
BRIBERY

# F

a FIST FIGHT  
FIRE  
FORGIVENESS  
FOREPLAY  
FREAKS

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JEALOUSY  
JOY  
JUSTIN BIEBER  
JINGOISM

# N

NERVE  
NIHILISM  
NIGHTMARES  
NOISE  
NUCLEAR FALLOUT

# R

ROBOTS  
a RIOT  
RED TAPE  
REPTILIAN POLITICIANS  
RESISTANCE

# V

VICTORY  
VIOLENCE  
VAMPIRES  
VOLCANOES

# C

COPS  
CARNIES  
CONSUMPTION  
CORPORATIONS  
CRAB PEOPLE

# G

GUNS  
GMOs  
GENTRIFICATION  
GREED  
a GOING-AWAY PARTY

# K

KING KONG  
KARMA  
KIDS WHO DO BEAUTY  
PAGEANTS

# O

OPPRESSION  
OBSESSION  
OMNI-CONS  
OPIUM  
OMNIPOTENCE

# S

SABOTAGE  
STUDENT INSURGENT  
SOLITUDE  
STUDENT LOAN DEBT  
SILENCE

# W

WAR  
WASPS  
WEALTH  
WEREWOLVES

# D

DOUCHE BAGS  
DEAD-BEAT DADS  
DETINATION  
DOMINATION

# H

a HANGOVER  
HAPPINESS  
HYPOCRISY  
HORSEPLAY  
HYPER-MASCULINITY

# L

LOVE  
LIES  
LAUGHTER  
4 LOKO

# P

PRIVATE PRISONS  
PROPERTY  
POLICE  
a PYRAMID SCHEME  
POISE

# T

TRUMP  
TORNADOES  
TIME  
TYRANNY  
TREASON

# X

X-RAY VISION  
XENOPHOBIA  
XMAS SHOPPING  
X-RATED MOVIES

# Z

ZOMBIES  
ZEALOTS  
a ZAP  
ZIKA VIRUS

an excerpt from

## Looking for Equality in all the Wrong Places: Sexism in Portland's DIY Music Scene

by Grace Carroll and Dominic Galen



*Editor's Note:* I have been feeling hopeless living in a world where cooperation and community are abandoned. I feel betrayed by people who claim to value synergy but abandon the movement when shit gets hard. Some claim to be fighting the good fight, but look the other way when it is no longer convenient. As a women who's involved in her local punk community, I felt that this excerpt sums up why I feel like our scene is DOOMED.

DIY music culture is partially rooted in the punk rock scene, and though they may not always share stylistic characteristics, they share ideological foundations. Portland's punk and DIY music scene emphasizes social justice, equity, and antioppression values. It values alternative means of production (i.e. self publishing, low fi recording) and performance (such as house shows) and has a strong communal ethic. House shows are a common music performance and gathering space for DIY communities, in which bands play in the living rooms or basements of peoples' homes. These shows are often free or may have a small cover fee to support out of town bands. House shows are spread by word of mouth and the internet (via facebook and pcpdx) and are gathering places for both youth and adults.

Central to the philosophy of this scene is a focus on egalitarianism, which promotes the destruction of any kind of inequality. Naturally, this would include dismantling systems of oppression based on things like race, class, gender and sex. Punk was built on an ideological foundation that values nonconformity and personal freedom; punk is antiestablishment and antioppression, and holds a DIY ethic as its method of production (Leblanc, 1999). One of the primary ways in which nonconformity and antioppression

values manifested in the punk community was through questioning gender identity through dress and behavior (Leblanc, 1999) with the goal being to produce gender equality (Marcus, 2010). There has been substantial criticism of the early punk scene and the disconnect between vocalized gender equality and the actual experience of women in the scene (Leblanc, 1999; Lee, 2002; Manion, 2007). A significant body of literature and theory examines the gender relations (Leblanc, 1999; Marcus, 2010) and sexism (Buechele, 2010) within the early punk (Leblanc, 1999), straight edge (Mellaney, 2007; Haenfler, 2004b), and anarchist communities (Manion, 2007).

My partner and I thought it would be interesting to see in what ways this community of supposedly antisexist perpetuates or replicates sexist trends imbedded in the dominant culture. From our observations, we noticed familiar patterns of power dynamics. Our research asks to what extent can the sexism of these antisexist communities (Holtzman & Van Meter, 2007) be found in present day DIY music scenes and to what extent does previous literature on gender and oppression in these communities manifest itself in Portland's 'house show' scene?

### Grace Carroll- April 24th, 2015.

On a Friday night at around 9 PM, I walk up to the front yard of a house on NE 28th off of Killingsworth. I can hear the muffled thumping of a bass guitar from the front yard, a plot of dying grass occupied by a few men wearing hooded sweatshirts and standing around, smoking cigarettes in the darkness. I walk through the chainlink fence and go around to the back door, which is left ajar. I walk through a narrow hallway which leads to the living room, where a crowd has assembled around the band, still warming up. I survey the audience: 70-80% of the people are men in tshirts and jeans, though some of these men are accompanied by women. Women who are not on the arm of a man seem to stick together in groups, but I do not see any walking alone or drifting like some of the men do. In this way, the crowd is fairly divided by sex. A man wearing a torn jean vest with Anarchist patches on the back is standing alone with his arm around the waist of a woman in a dress. She turns around and sees what appears to be a group of her friends coming in to the living room from the hall, and she moves away to greet them. As soon as she gets a foot away, though, the man extends a hand to touch her arm at which point she turns around. He gestures with his chin for her to come back, and after waving to the group of girls walking by she returns to his side.

The first band starts playing, a mix of ska and punk music, and mostly the crowd stands there just watching. A group of women are dancing and swaying at the front. Some of the men nod their heads to the music, but most of them stay pretty still through the love songs and poppy guitar riffs. In between bands, everyone shoves each other to get outside for some air, or a cigarette. I follow the sweaty crowd out into the chilly night air, where everyone stands

around talking amongst themselves. I am eavesdropping, watching a couple that I saw walk in together at the beginning of the night. The man and his girlfriend are approached by a group of other men. The boyfriend starts talking to them about the show, and they start having a discussion about the music and the musicians. The men all stand around in a huddle, talking to each other. I notice how they each allow each man to speak, making eye contact and reaffirming nods. The men address each other directly when speaking. However, as soon as the girlfriend tries to jump in to the conversation I notice a change in dynamic. No one makes prolonged eye contact with her, and more often than not the other men look to her boyfriend instead, after she speaks.

I can hear the band inside starting to make noise, warming up for their set, and I slip back in through the door and stand inside the mouth of the living room. Just like the first band, this one is made up of all males. Everyone setting up the equipment is also male. The crowd outside begins to channel back into the living room. As soon as the second band starts playing, the women disappear from the floor and move to the peripheries of the room. The first thing I noticed was that the whole front row before the band was men. Soon into the first song of an aggressive setlist, a mosh pit forms in the middle of the crowd. I only see one or two other women in the pit full of men, many of whom are shirtless, slamming into each other. The men have formed their own circle, and by the end of the song all the women that I saw have been elbowed out. The room is packed full of people, and it is getting really hot in the audience. Men in the pit start to peel off their shirts, and soon I feel uncomfortable in the crowd and I move away to the back of the audience, as well.

*Dominic Galen- Sunday April 12th, 2015.*

I arrived at The Darkplace at 8:30pm, a setting I am relatively familiar with. This house in Northeast Portland hosts house shows nearly every weekend and seems to only exist for that purpose. I know the front door will be locked, so I head around back; pulling back the barely attached gate I slip into the backyard and search out familiar faces. I notice right away that this show is smaller than most as there are less people in the backyard than expected. I walk inside and pay \$6 to the man at the door, he draws a sloppy upside-down cross on the back of my right hand with a black sharpie and absently steps aside. Stepping into the kitchen I begin gathering my bearings; an unknown band is playing in the living room and there are about 12 people in the kitchen. Bodies slide past one another as people move between the music and the backyard. The kitchen table is below a three foot wide hole in the ceiling where pipes and framing is exposed. A handful of cigarettes burn in the kitchen and the room is smoky...

...A green bulb in a lamp illuminates the second band, "the Bricklayers." I notice more women in the mosh pit than usual. Everyone seems to be having a good time and the crowd seems positive; I notice the happy grimaces of people getting slammed around in the mosh pit but having fun. I am surprised by how many women I see- it is almost 50% women, but I expected closer to 10%. A mattress propped against the windows to block the sound falls on the drummer but he doesn't stop playing. When the show ends, the band gets backpats and people start pushing their way outside for cigarettes and fresh air.

A guitar squeal indicates the third band is about to start. I meet an informant outside and he tells me "I wanna get in there and mosh! Get some energy out". We go inside and push our way into

the crowded room to get a view of the band. When they start I am immediately taken aback by their aggression. The lead singer of the "Cro-Mags" is muscular and wearing a white tshirt tucked into tight jeans tucked into high combat boots and sporting a clean-cut, slicked hairdo. The drummer slams out a flurry of sound at impossible speed while the lead flexes at the crowd and screams a guttural howl. A small handful of similarly dressed men take over the moshpit and the space in front of the band; flailing, throwing elbows, and shoving kept all but the strongest and most intense mosher out. People standing along the sidelines started getting slammed into by the walls. I look back and see the previous informant trying to get out of the room, shaking her head in disappointment. All the women, even those on the sidelines, have been squeezed out of the room. The lead singer continues flexing, hitting the audience closest to him, and showboating intense masculinity and aggression. I can't handle the violence and I leave the pit. I overhear a woman saying "I got kicked in the tit," and another saying "that guy throwing elbows was really trying to fuck people up."

I look at the tapes and tshirts for sale in the kitchen. "The Bricklayers" tshirts show a graphic of two chained hands breaking free. Before leaving I run into the lead singer of "Cro-Mags." Seeing him up close I notice that his jeans are tight enough to see the outline of his penis and I notice the massive six inch folding knife hooked to his belt. The militarization of his outfit makes me uncomfortable, we both nod and walk past each other. I notice among the plethora of graffiti a drawing of Sylvester Stallone that says 'molester Stallone' below it. Leaving the show, I get a ride from an informant. She is telling a friend how she ate some olives that another man had given her, she is joking about hoping they weren't drugged.



Moshing has been well recognized as a place where sexism and gender inequality becomes visible in the punk and hardcore music scene (Lee, 2002; Leblanc, 1999; Griffin, 2013). These feminist takes on punk culture point out the ways in which mosh pits become dominated by aggressive men and how, often, women are forced out of participating. This occurs as part of a larger narrative of punk women being forced to use masculinity to participate and be accepted in that community as a peer (Leblanc, 1999). One way it has been theorized in the literature has been to describe moshing as a reproduction of hegemonic masculinity (Buechele, 2006; Mullaney, 2007). The claims here are that dominant views of masculinity are carried by men and women into anti-oppression, anti-establishment, etc. communities and are given a new outlet in these new communities—thus, reproducing gender inequality. Buechele and Mullaney both describe moshing as an expression of hegemonic masculine aggression, one which women are culturally not allowed to participate in or physically are liable to be injured because of being shorter than many of the men throwing elbows around. Both researchers noticed a clear exclusion of women from many of the mosh pits which can be similarly seen in literature about moshing at punk shows.

Other expressions of gender inequality at these shows were in the perceptions of women's roles and their exclusion from 'work'. It was noticed how women were excluded from the logistical side of DIY music methods of production and were seldom involved in house shows beyond being in the audience. The literature also points out how women are excluded from behind the scenes work in the punk scene (Leblanc, 1999; Griffin, 2013). Further, the modes of production in the DIY punk scene have been explored through a feminist context—authors found that women were being silenced as cultural producers and were relegated to lower supporting roles (Marcus, 2010; Leblanc, 1999; Lee, 2002). The quote from the female show organizer about not being seen as 'an asset to the scene' is a clear demonstration of these authors findings in action.

The conversation dynamics between men and women at house shows fit the definition of subjective objectification, a form of subtle sex discrimination "by which women are (1) treated as children or property, (2) viewed as sex objects" or as the "token" woman in a traditionally masculine setting (Benokraitis, 1995). This was apparent when in conversations at house shows women were ignored by their male peers, a behavior which displays the sexist belief that women are not as able or intelligent as men, and therefore have no place in the conversation. When a man looks to a woman's

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Griffin, N. (2013). Gendered Performance Performing Gender in the DIY Punk and Hardcore Music Scene. *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 13(2), 66-81.

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boyfriend instead of her in response to her speech, it reinforces the lack of respect and value showed to women within a community which has historically been male dominated, and which has glorified masculinity (Manion, 2007). In this way, the sexism of the dominant culture is reproduced in the Portland house show scene, as similar trends of undervaluing women prevail, evidenced by women's lack of inclusion in conversation.

The observations made in the field seem to agree with many of the findings of previous literature on sexism in the punk, anarchist, and straight edge scenes. We are slightly limited in our ability to objectively study this field because of an existing context and history with this culture—we believe, though, that our context and knowledge of Portland's DIY music and house show scene empowers us to access it in a way that an outside researcher could not. Given more time, we would like to do in-depth interviews with men and women in the punk scene to gauge their experiences. It would also be useful to compare their verbal reportings of experience with the observed actions in uncontrolled settings like house shows.

During our observations of house shows, in interviews, and in conversations while organizing house shows, we noticed examples of status quo sexism (Benokraitis, Feagin, 1995). This includes: dances that exclude many women, women ignored in the organization of shows, male dominated conversation dynamics, and a distinct lack of dialogue between men surrounding these issues. This adds up to an exclusion of women from the scene (Leblanc, 1999; Manion, 2007). We observed the same theories at play that have been extensively described and observed regarding sexism in the early anti-sexist punk (Leblanc, 1999), hardcore (Haenfler, 2006), and straight edge scenes (Mullaney, 2007; Haenfler, 2004b).

These theories included reproductions of hegemonic masculinity (Buechele, 2006; Connell, 2005), through moshing and the 'going rate' of equality (Mullaney, 2007), which go against the scene's egalitarian philosophy by reflecting the culture of sexist power dynamics. We discovered that the theoretical causes of sexism in the punk community did not only apply to that culturally and temporally specific set of communities, but also applied to Portland's vocally anti-oppression DIY music scene. This suggests that the sexism of dominant culture is so embedded that even communities which actively aim to dismantle those systems of oppression can still perpetuate those power dynamics.

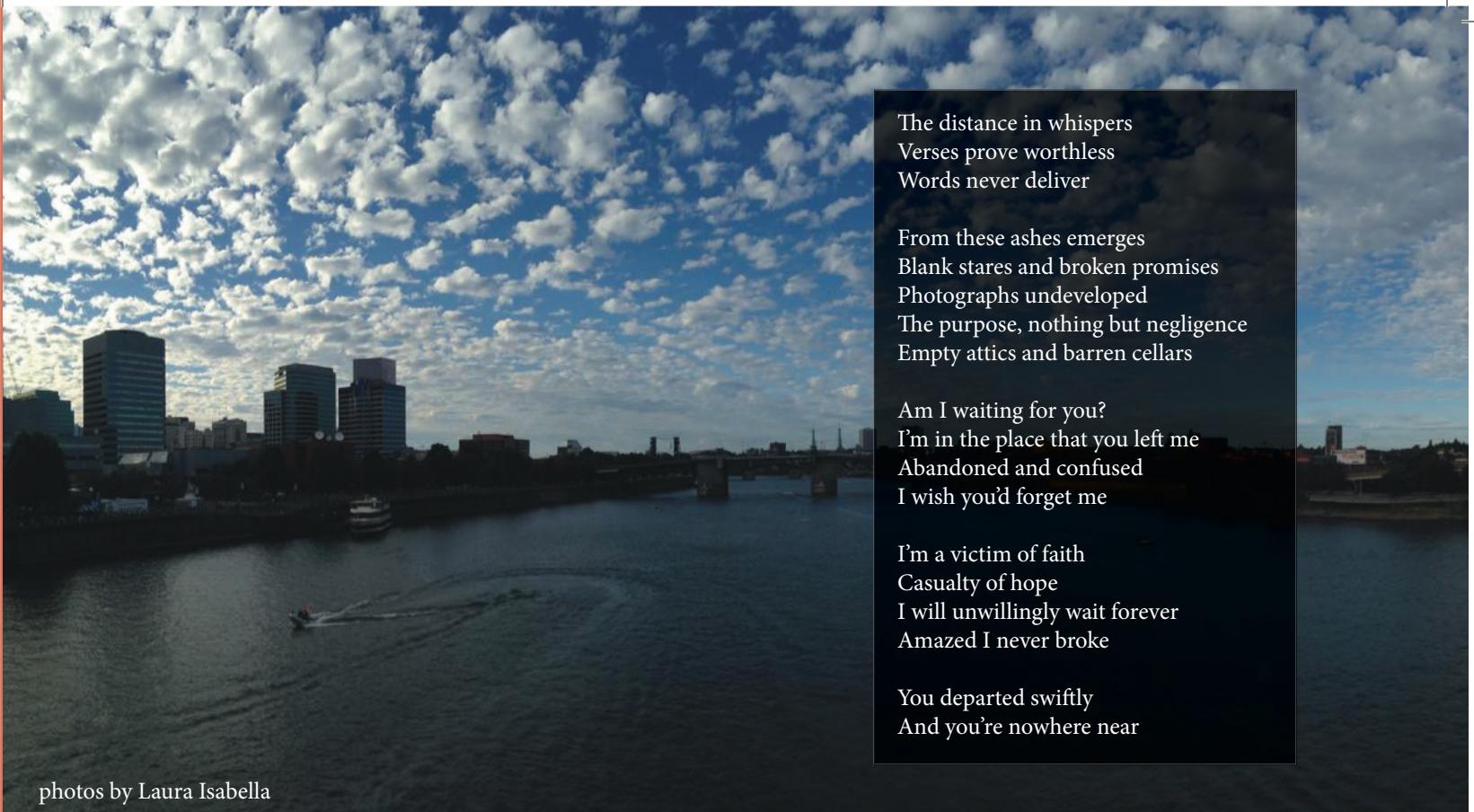
"So if there's still girls still growing up in this world:  
To believe they can't sing rock 'n' roll,  
I don't wanna live in this world anymore.  
No I don't wanna live in this world anymore".

— Wingnut Dishwashers Union  
"For a Girl in Rhinelander, WI"



"There's so much depression nowadays in adolescents  
And with all the social pressure that makes sense  
But music shouldn't be the problem  
Music should be the solution  
And only a positive experience  
Because the music  
It doesn't change  
No, the songs remain the same  
Whether there are zero people or there are a zillion  
people in the world who are listening"

— Kimya Dawson  
"Zero or a Zillion"



photos by Laura Isabella

The distance in whispers  
Verses prove worthless  
Words never deliver

From these ashes emerges  
Blank stares and broken promises  
Photographs undeveloped  
The purpose, nothing but negligence  
Empty attics and barren cellars

Am I waiting for you?  
I'm in the place that you left me  
Abandoned and confused  
I wish you'd forget me

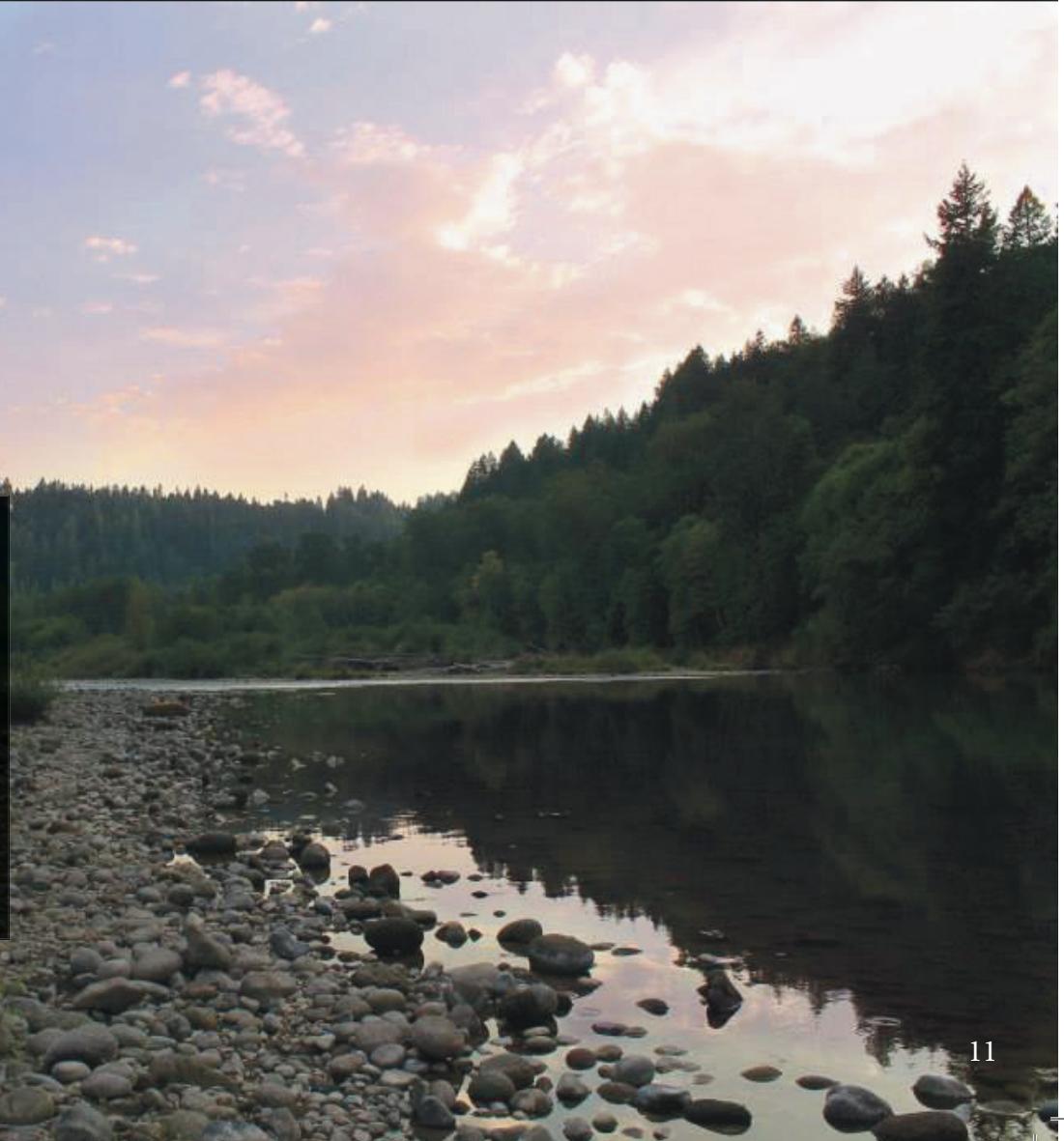
I'm a victim of faith  
Casualty of hope  
I will unwillingly wait forever  
Amazed I never broke

You departed swiftly  
And you're nowhere near

we were kids  
we walked these woods  
knew every tree  
down to the roots

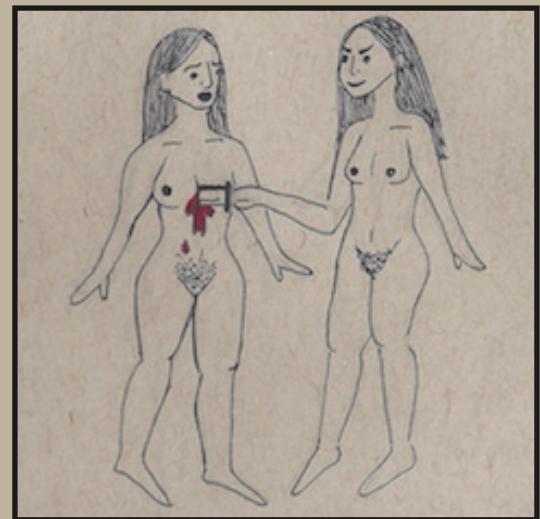
we even picked one for ourselves  
and went there when times got tough

wrap my arms around its base  
drain the blue out of my heart to my hands  
but it kept me warm  
no matter how harsh the bite got



**TAURUS** April 20 - May 20  
don't preach your gospel just  
to please an individual.  
life gets a lot better when  
you stop looking for approval  
from others.

**ARIES** Mar. 21 - April 19  
make up your damn mind.



**GEMINI** May 21 - Jun. 20  
trust no one, not even yourself!



**PISCES** Feb. 19 - Mar. 20  
put your negativity into perspective.

**AQUARIUS** Jan. 20 - Feb. 18  
dream your dream and your  
dream will dream of you.  
too bad 9 times out of 10  
that dream will end up being a  
night terror.



**CAPRICORN** Dec. 22 - Jan. 19  
you're stuck with who you are so you  
ought to make peace with it.





### CANCER Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

you're wasting your time  
trying to make things right.

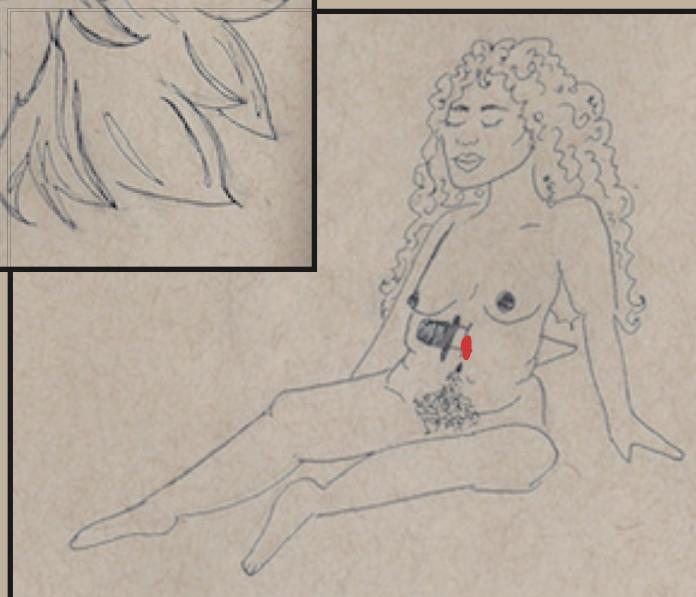


### LEO Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

go fuck yourself!

### VIRGO Aug. 23 - Sep. 21

stop blaming your  
mistakes on other people.  
it's probably your fault.



# SCOPES

by someone who doesn't know shit about astrology



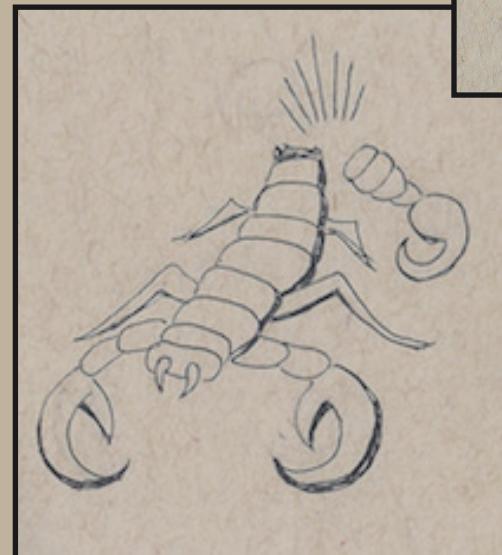
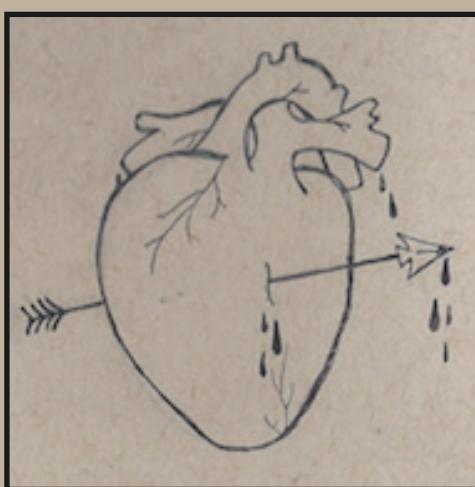
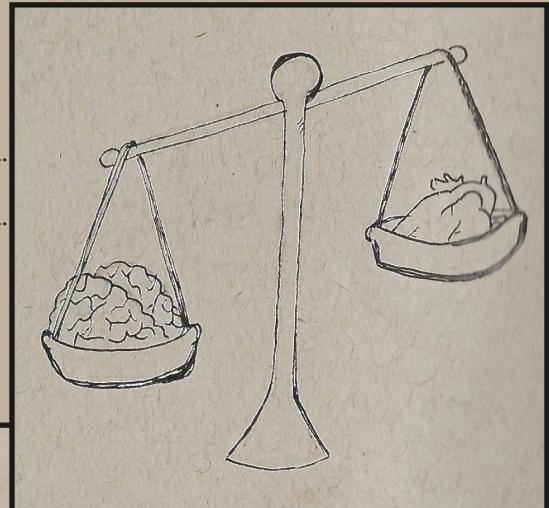
### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

stop wasting your time being afraid  
of the future.

### LIBRA

Sept. 22 - Oct. 23

follow your heart,  
you'll end up dead.  
follow your head,  
you'll end up dead.



### SCORPIO Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

bad news: nothing lasts forever.  
good news: nothing lasts forever.

art by Laura Isabella

# THE EPIDEMIC OF INSTITUTIONAL PATRIARCHY SEXUAL ASSAULT ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

BY JESS CONNER

The culture surrounding college is a multifaceted microcosm, brewing with intellectual discourse and drowning in the blood of the patriarchy.

In the U.S. 1 in 5 women will be sexually assaulted while attending college.

I refuse to sing insulting metaphors trying to contextualize this number for you, nor will I plead, *imagine if she was sister, mother or daughter*, because we will not solely value women through their relationships to men.

Sexual assault is an epidemic on college campuses. However,

this systematic violence against women exists within a darkly woven web, spun with ravenous greed, hyper masculinity and a complicit authority, that is unique to the college campus. This creates an environment where rape culture oozes from the darkest corners of campus, saturating every inch of these institutions.

Rape culture is perpetuated and institutionalized by the university, specifically, within the culture surrounding Greek life and college athletics, compounded by the priorities of university administration.

The trauma of sexual violence does not desist with the physical assault itself, for the gender-based torment is furthered through the actions and policies of a larger institution, the university.

## THE UNIVERSITY

The university has an obligation to students to provide an enriching higher educational experience, devoid of discrimination based on gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, et cetera. Across the nation, administrations are systematically denying survivors of sexual assault this right.

Each university is a marketable brand, competing against one another to promote their image and to sell their product: the all-American college experience.

The higher the quality of the brand, the more students will want to attend the university, which not only means more money, but also increases the university's perceived status, which encourages donors to continue to invest in this brand.

Therefore, the university is **financially incentivized** to uphold the respectful brand of the university. Translation: they silence scandals and tame crime statistics to maintain this brand.

It is in the best interest of universities to keep sexual assault reports as low as possible. In 2012, 45 public universities reported 0 sexual assaults.

When a student initiates the reporting process (yes, there is a long, complicated process), the survivor is dragged through ridiculous obstacles, interrogated as if she was the accused. She is attacked with questions dripping with blame. *How much did you drink? What were you wearing? Did you lead him on?* **THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS ARE IRRELEVANT. RAPE IS NEVER JUSTIFIABLE.**

These insinuations poke and pry at the survivor's vulnerability, digging fingernails into wounds that are still bleeding. She is forced to relive her sexual assault over and over, explaining the darkest depths of this trauma to strangers who blame her for this crime. Some universities embed their reporting process with bureaucratic obstacles to keep reporting rates low. Women are explicitly told not to report or are accused of false reporting.

The hypersensitivity around false reporting is absolutely irrational. Sexual assault has the same false reporting rate as any other crime: 2-6%



University of Oregon Professor Jennifer Fryed coined the term *Institutional Betrayal*, which is the added trauma of abuse from a larger institution in which violation of trust occurs within a necessary relationship. Sexual assault survivors have experienced violent trauma and through reporting have mustered the bravery to ask for help and to hold their perpetrator accountable. However, this act of bravery is met with defensive resistance from the administration. **The survivor is ignored, shamed, and interrogated, all while their character is questioned and they're further isolated from the support they need.**

The survivor is unavoidably dependent on the administration, and this power dynamic creates a dehumanizing circus that only adds to the trauma of sexual assault. Therefore, not only are survivors alienated, but the abuse continues through the administration's action or inaction, for survivors believed the university to be an ally in this horrific experience.

The administration is not an inherently evil entity but their

first priority, driven by a capitalistic mindset, is to protect the university in cases of sexual assault. This is at the expense of survivors.

This conscious maltreatment of students is against federal law for under Title IX (Dept. of Education 1972) higher public education institutions are prohibited from discriminating based on gender and students are guaranteed the right to an educational environment free of hostility. Universities across the nation are failing to provide this by not prosecuting and expelling rapists from campus. Through grassroots movements, survivors and allies are holding universities accountable. Over 70 universities are currently under investigation by the Department of Education for violations of Title IX, including the University of Oregon.

**This is not an isolated event.** This is systematically happening all across the nation. We know the statistics; violence against women is undoubtedly evident yet university administrations are still complicit in allowing it to persist.





# FRATERNITIES

Greek life is a culture in itself, armed with historical traditions, social norms and the subtle enforcement of conformity. This is a culture comprised of a mostly white, heterosexual, middle class population: essentially, an exclusive club of privileged fucks, who partake in hook-up, party culture.

Fraternities are built upon fragile, enforced masculinity. Masculinity polices itself; men constantly hold other men accountable for weakness through phrases like "don't be a pussy!" Yes, because being a vagina, and therefore a woman, is an appropriate insult.

Collectively, fraternities reinforce a skewed notion of what it means to "be a man," which, in this social arena, is defined through sexual conquest.

This detrimental mindset can be seen through the normalized rape culture present at fraternity parties. For those of you not familiar with Greek life: all women, Greek or not, are welcome at these parties, but men are not. However, often if enough women accompany a man, his presence will be canceled out by the few possible hookups and therefore, he will be granted entrance into the party. Women are viewed as commodities for sale and thus, the singular man in this example brought enough to bargain with. Furthermore, this ratio of one brother to 3-4 women creates an environment where men are able to bring in a surplus of women, plant seeds and pick their prey, resembling a dehumanizing feeding ground of sexual conquest.

Furthermore, an essential and problematic aspect of the classic fraternity party is the unregulated bar. The fraternity controls the dispersion of the alcohol (type and strength of liquor, ratio of liquor-to-chaser, etc.) and therefore has the power to get everyone shitfaced. Are fraternities serving free alcohol out of the kindness of their own hearts? No, it is with the goal of getting women drunk so that they can have sex with them. The assumption is that the drunker women are, the better the chances of fraternity brothers getting laid. If she truly wanted to fuck you, intoxication should not be necessary. The essence of

rape culture thrives in this environment for it is rape culture at its finest! Think about the nicknames that have become popular for certain fraternities like, "Dude's that Drug" for Delta Tau Delta or "Sexual Assault Expected" for Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The predatory behavior of fraternities has become a trendy joke that is entirely normalized in college culture. Why is it funny to joke about drugging and raping women? This normalization of rape culture makes it seem like raping is funny and therefore acceptable, but it is not.

This objective and entitled view towards women is further perpetuated through the language fratty fucks use to depict sex. Men score, slam, fuck, and demolish women. Sex has become synonymous with a sport that has two opposing teams, one winner and one loser; thus, violence is inserted into the equation, someone dominates and the other is dominated. We are all guilty of perpetuating violence against women through the words we speak. It is crucial to abstain and combat these verbal manifestations of rape culture for language informs our perceptions of the world.

The problem intensifies further through the university's contractual relationship with fraternities. The fraternity creates a sense of belonging among members and therefore fosters a deep connection to the university that persists after graduation. It then makes sense that majority of donations to the university are from fraternity alumni, especially since rich white boys tend to make good money. Therefore, the university clearly gains momentous financial support from fraternities. This unbalanced relationship is problematic because the university is financially deterred from disciplining this disgusting behavior. Some fraternities are punished but they are still systematically exempt from expulsion from campus, which is clearly immoral and done for financial reasons. **By not holding fraternities accountable for their heinous crimes, the university is consciously consenting to the rape of female students.**

Side Note: The fraternity organization is the most represented group in Congress. So the skewed notion of manhood and the violent and entitled view towards women pervades into our legal system! ... Explains a lot.



# COLLEGE ATHLETES

College athletes are glorified campus celebrities: we've all heard the popular slogan "I want to Marry-ota" about Marcus Mariota. For clarity, by college athletes I'm mostly speaking about the top of social hierarchy: the men's football and basketball players.

Majority of these players come from the newspaper headlines of their hometowns, cherished and loved for their athletic abilities. The humbleness of getting a scholarship to play the sport they love quickly fades away when they get a taste of the luxurious life of a college athlete. They are pampered with special learning centers, academic privileges, high-tech training facilities, and to top it all off, special green backpacks to make a visual statement to the rest of campus that they are superior to regular students. There is a clear-cut social divide.

It isn't the materialistic division that creates issues but the mindset of invincibility and ultimate privilege that creates a culture of entitlement. This fosters an environment where men believe they are entitled to women's bodies, just as they are entitled to everything else.

Digging deeper, the notion of masculinity is intertwined with norms of dominance and aggression. **Therefore, in settings where worth is based on physical abilities—the most saturated arena being college athletics—hyper-masculinity is often necessary and intertwined with success.** These men strive for complete dominance over other players, demolishing opponents with fierce aggression. These players are hailed and praised for their aggressive behavior, which only normalizes violence.

Furthermore, the reinforcement of manhood with sexual conquest is visually apparent in media and is a driving force of rape culture. Therefore, entitlement and normalized violence blended with socially desirable traits of aggression, dominance and sexual prowess is an incredibly dangerous concoction to instill in male athletes. Furthermore, similar to the fraternities rack in donations, college athletics is the big business, the big moneymaker, on college campuses. The football and basketball teams produce millions of dollars in revenue for the university, as well as positive publicity. This incentivizes the administration to protect players in cases of sexual assault in order to protect the university's image and income.

Especially on college campuses like "The University of Nike," the school's image is inseparable from the athletic department. When a player has committed rape, the player is protected. This is because the player is valued higher in the community in comparison to the survivor. Furthermore, the image of the university is valued higher than any single individual. Therefore, the administration struggles and consistently fails to treat cases of sexual assault as a humanitarian issue instead of a PR scandal.

This cocktail of privilege, entitlement, dominance and aggression within college athletics creates an environment where rape culture can thrive...a place where hundreds of thousands of women have been raped and few rapists have been held accountable.

If this culture of normalized rape continues, 100,000 students will be sexually assaulted during the next academic school year.

It is important to note that this intricate misogynistic web varies from campus-to-campus. I hear you when you say, "Fraternities and athletes aren't like that on my campus!" Sure, but they are like that elsewhere. Across the U.S., there are pockets of these filthy, monstrous groups where drugging is common and rape is celebrated. You've all seen the videos of frat bros chanting "NO MEANS YES, YES MEANS ANAL!" outside of a freshman dormitory; you've seen the headlines, the "scandals" and yet this unregulated behavior is accepted. Regardless of where you go to school, this should upset and scare you.

With that said, the University of Oregon and the surrounding community have taken crucial steps to combat the epidemic of sexual assault on campus.

Currently, there are incredible prevention and reporting programs available for students. However, these prevention programs center the discourse on women, addressing rape as an action that happens to women. This is undeniably important, but we need to address the REAL root of the problem: the rapists. Through women-centered prevention programs we

are preemptively blaming victims, instead we should focus the discourse on problematic behavior and not fucking raping.

*Why are we discussing crime prevention with potential victims instead of the potential criminals?*

**We need to hold rapists accountable.** Instead of blaming victims, let's expel organizations that condone, perpetuate or ignore blatant violence. Let's start a discussion on the implications of money being valued higher than the emotional wellbeing of students. Let's be courageous and commit to a zero tolerance policy against acts of sexual violence and protect all of our survivors, regardless of their institutional ties or their genders.

Rape culture has saturated our societal norms, perverted its way into our visions of what is normal, what is acceptable and what is just. Unless we are active in confronting this epidemic and combating these norms, we are complicit participants in the rape of thousands of women.

Stop choking me  
Please let me breathe

I hurt all over  
But I hurt here the most  
I feel pain all over  
But I feel pain here  
The most

Eyes,  
Don't look at  
me with  
Your eyes  
His eyes

Hate me  
Do it and do it again  
Waste me  
Rape me, my friend  
My favorite inside source  
I'll kiss your open sores  
Appreciate your concern  
You're gonna stink  
And burn  
Nirvana

You did me wrong,  
I grinned and played  
along  
Those days are gone,  
Does this confession  
turn you on?  
Say Anything

**Love.**  
**Love.**  
**Love shouldn't hurt,**  
**Not like this.**

con·sent /kən'sent/  
noun  
1. permission for something to happen or  
agreement to do something.

Always remember:  
Communication is everything,  
Honesty is everything,  
And above all, consent is everything.

Let's stop hurting each other.

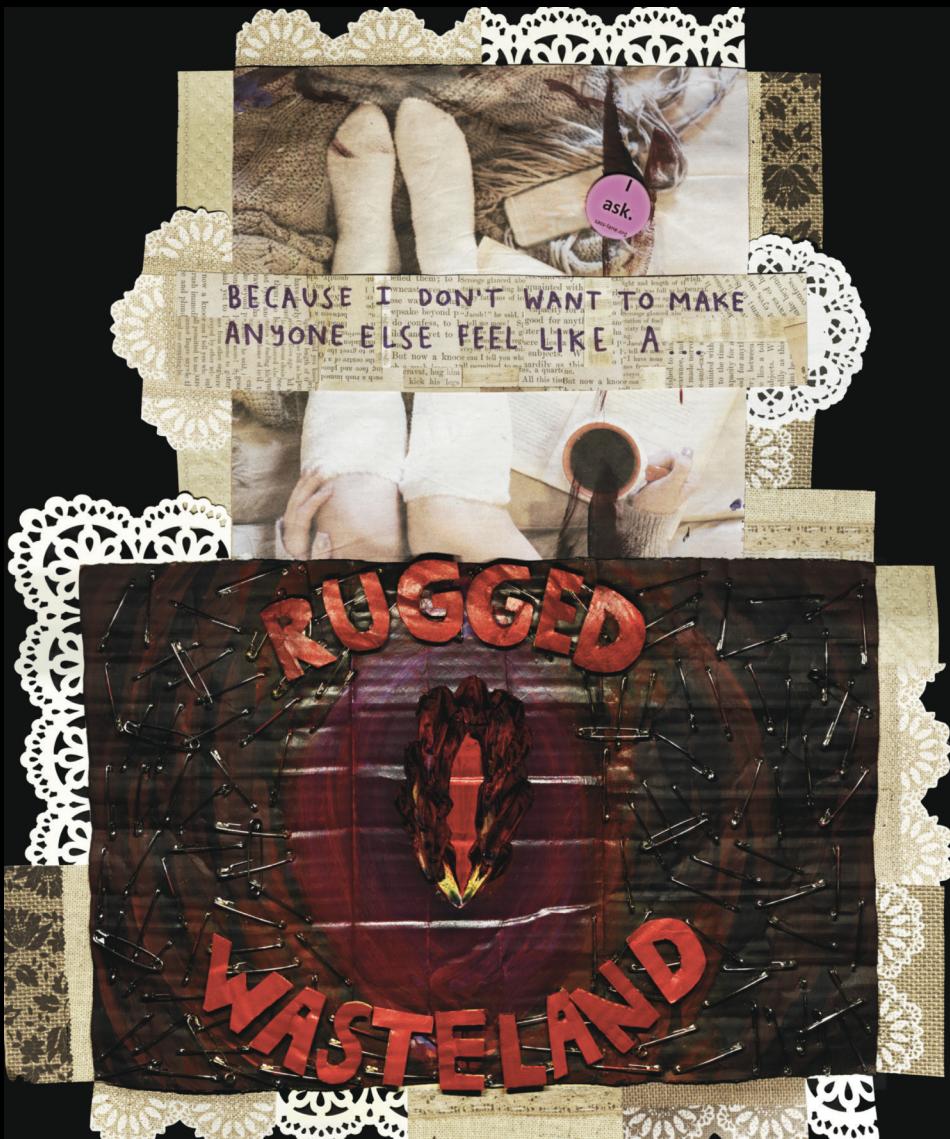
You're just a pawn,  
Does this confession turn you on?  
Say Anything  
Tainted  
Forever, I have been tainted by you

Your eyes  
Now I can't look in your eyes  
Your aggressive,  
Scummy, dirty  
Brown eyes

I should've known it when  
you howled his name,  
You got off, you got off, you  
got off...  
Say Anything

I look at you  
I see him  
I look at you  
I see him  
I look at you  
I can't help it  
I'm scared  
I see him

Let me clip  
Your dirty wings  
Let me take a ride  
Don't cut yourself  
I want some help  
To please myself  
I've got some rope  
You have been told  
I promise you  
I have been true  
Let me take a ride  
Don't cut yourself  
I want some help  
To please myself  
Nirvana



**Confusion, not love.**  
**Confusion, not love.**  
**This must be**  
**Confusion, not love.**  
**This is not love.**  
**This can't be love.**

*Predator*  
*Prey*  
*Predator*  
*Prey*

*Hit me,*  
*Kiss me,*  
*Love me,*  
*Hurt me,*  
*Bruise me,*  
*It's all the same.*  
*Infatuation,*  
*Rejection,*  
*Lust,*  
*Betrayal,*  
*Love,*  
*It's all the same.*

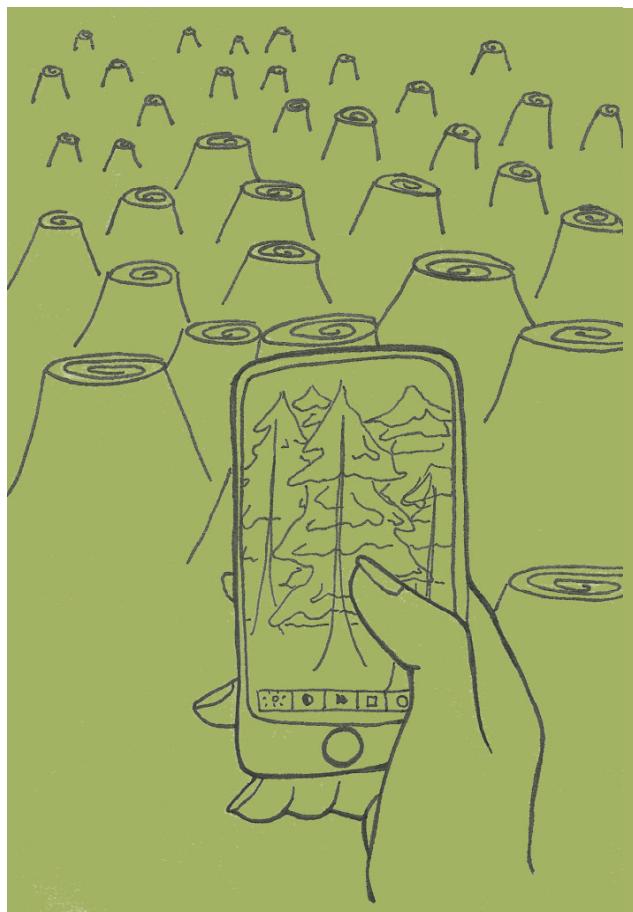
*Amber Erkan*

## Green by Bryanna Moore

blood runs green in America  
and not because of sprawling hills or roaming  
valleys  
because of dollar bills and declining salaries  
so many think they are free of addiction  
but capitalism fills another prescription  
the American Dream's becoming a nightmare  
but this month it's sleeping pills or food on the  
table

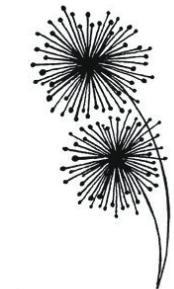
the grass grows green in America  
and you can almost see it from the highway  
almost feel it through the build-up of gravel in  
your feet  
the build-up of gasoline in your lungs  
the grass grows black in America

eugene and portland can claim to be green  
but really we're part of another machine  
we inhale waterfalls, exhale insta photos  
claiming nature is vital but only on screens  
hashtags mean nothing when the earth can't  
breathe



## Walls of Jericho by Larry Rush

Led through an ancient steel arch  
each step reluctant  
as the guard counted, "One!" between puffs  
of his cheap stale cigar  
I was inducted without being a soldier  
I was instructed without being a student  
I was insulted without being ashamed  
And infuriated at my nameless - #AM-2728 - catalogue  
name  
I felt an overwhelming need to smile  
(as shackles are removed)  
Freedom! To enjoy my confinement  
No! Oh My God! A silent scream within  
A man locked behind the walls of Jericho  
And Joshua not due for another seven years.



Poetry

# EPISTEMOLOGY OF DOOM

BY JULIAN KANE  
ART BY AVERY BUTLER

In my more wistful moments I like to think that the end of the world will be a bit dignified. Perhaps when the thermonuclear warheads start flying, they'll spread a little poetic justice along with lethal radiation. Perhaps when that meteor hurtling through the heavens finally comes our way, it'll bring along a dash of cosmic harmony as well as global annihilation. However, there is one thing I am all too certain of; the rise of Donald Trump, and the doom that runs before him, carries about as much dignity as death by autoerotic asphyxiation.

When listening to the slurry of racist, sexist, xenophobic, anti-intellectual bile that typifies Donald Trump's campaign rhetoric, it is tempting to think of the man as a kind of natural disaster. Just as hurricanes can devastate all social classes and racial groups within a community, no individual seems immune to the nonsensical wrath of our insulter-in-chief. A war hero and elder statesman is, to Trump, an impotent, incompetent, coward. A journalist, who happens to be disabled, becomes a disgusting invalid. Our tendency is not towards reflection and analysis of these events, but to horrified voyeurism, akin to watching the world's largest car wreck. Unfortunately, as the Republican convention draws closer and closer, and the possibility of a Trump nomination becomes more plausible, we are forced to reflect, as opposed to staying comfortably removed from such a tawdry figure.

What is it that makes Trump different? Pundits have been asking and answering this question for months on end now, and most have come to a similar set of conclusions; Trump is a showman, Trump is rich, Trump feeds off of discontent, Trump is a bigot. All of these are true to varying degrees yet they seem inadequate for understanding our current situation. After all, we have had showman Presidents before (Reagan), we have had rich Presidents before (Bush Jr. and Sr.), we have had angry populist Presidents before (Teddy Roosevelt), and we have had bigoted Presidents before (almost all of them). Yet it is apparent to people across the political spectrum that the candidacy of Mr. Trump feels like a fundamental departure from the traditional presidential mold. What accounts for this?

First of all, if we are going to understand the political world in which we live, then it is vital to remember that our political processes are responsive to and indicative of, the national psyche of the people, even if their will is often left unaddressed. Therefore, instead of focusing on Trump the man, we should instead focus on the world that Trump describes, the knowledge claims



that he asserts, in order to get a picture of how his supporters understand the world in which we all live.

One of the most striking things about Mr. Trump's campaign up until this point is how removed from conventional reality it often appears to be. Historically, presidential candidates have offered differing interpretations of a generally agreed upon set of facts about the world. If the economy is doing poorly, one candidate will propose raising taxes, and the other lowering taxes, but they both agreed on the state of the economy more or less. Trump, on the other hand, has put forth non-facts (bullshit) at such a furious pace that it is often difficult to catch all of them in a 2-minute sound bite. Only from a set of wrong observations

can Trump's assertions be understood. A wall spanning the entire southern border is absurd given the world we actually live in: it would cost billions of dollars to build and maintain, similar walls have not stopped migrants in the past, immigration across that border is at net zero, and the migrants themselves are a beneficial part of our economy and society. However, in the world that Trump has verbally built for his voters: the Mexican government is intentionally pouring its most violent, barbaric prisoners across and there's a massive welcome sign in the desert where they proceed to rape and murder vast swaths of American citizens. In this world, and only in this world, a wall does indeed seem necessary. Trump's appeal is based on his ability to make people buy into a fantasy world, one that diverges radically from the one we are actually living in.

Linda Martin Alcoff has categorized the kind of knowledge gathering, or epistemology, to use a philosophical term, which typifies Donald Trump and his voters, as part of the epistemology of ignorance. As Alcoff states "(The epistemology of ignorance) is the idea that an individual, or more likely, a group or community or society, can develop mechanisms to protect and maintain and pass down to the next generation their colossal ignorance. Ignorance about their own country's history, about their economic prospects, and about the environment in which they live, including both the social and the natural ones" (Alcoff). For her part, Alcoff has identified white people as the ultimate historical source of this epistemology within American culture. After all, the US was a country nominally founded on the ideals of egalitarianism and democracy, yet disbarred all individuals from voting unless they were wealthy, landed, white, and male. In order for dominant white Americans to preserve these ideals, given their concrete situation, an epistemology of ignorance is required.

Understanding this epistemology, however, does not lead to any greater understanding of where we currently are. If the epistemology of ignorance exists today, it surely has its roots in the inception of our country, therefore it cannot account for why Donald Trump is currently enjoying his political success, otherwise every presidential election should have had its own Trump. Something must be present today that has not been present in the past. The most likely, albeit unsatisfactory answer to this question seems to be the rise of new forms of media, which were technologically impossible just a few years ago. The ability to pick and choose what sources of information one consumes with almost total control through the internet, coupled with the lack of a societal mandate for individuals

to educate themselves on any topic at all, reinforces and amplifies the epistemology of ignorance. This has led directly into Trump's ability to assert outright falsehoods and yet be applauded by his supporters for "telling it like it is".

Yet again, however, we are confronted with an unsatisfactory answer to the Trump conundrum. Technology is not inherently beneficial or detrimental in gathering knowledge. Rather it can be both, to varying degrees, simultaneously. If one is motivated to gather diverse sources of information, the Internet is a wonderful tool. However, if one is intent to insulate themselves from any challenge to their beliefs, the Internet can be equally effective. It becomes apparent then, that although modern media may exacerbate the symptoms of an epistemology of ignorance, the underlying technology cannot be its ultimate source.

As Alcoff stated, societies must develop mechanisms so as to maintain the epistemology of ignorance. In order to determine how the epistemology of ignorance is maintained in this country, we should look for the entities that perpetuate ignorance through their fundamental structures. Any entity that supports a particular epistemology can be defined as epistemological infrastructure. By analyzing American institutions as pieces making up an epistemological infrastructure, we may be able to determine the mechanisms by which the epistemology of ignorance is passed down through generations.

Many candidates seem readily apparent as central for white America's epistemological infrastructure of ignorance: mass media, religious organizations, our education system, all of these and more could potentially contribute to the current political climate. However, the only entity that could account for the political climate we find ourselves in is the two-party political system itself. Only in a nation with such a dichotomous political structure, could a willful disregard develop for the beliefs and knowledge claims between so many fellow citizens. When the public at large deems only two political parties viable, individuals are often coerced into a process of evaluating knowledge claims that I will define as epistemological factionalism.

Within a two party system, there is a tendency toward this epistemological factionalism, which is either not present, or present to a far lesser degree in a multi-party system. This is due to the dynamics at play both between the parties concerned, as well as the citizenry choosing their political views. Within a two party system, the only concern for either party is to gain a majority of seats for whatever political branches that government possesses. In the US, the only requirement for the Democratic Party to have an absolute majority, as well as authority to pass any legislation they saw fit would be to have a majority of seats in the house and senate, a Democratic president, and a majority of liberal justices (i.e. justices appointed by democratic presidents) on the Supreme Court. In a system with only two parties, therefore, each party is incentivized to become only as large as is necessary to appeal to

half of the voting population, with the assumption that each voter only has two options to choose from. In order to maintain the support of half of the country, said political party would have to create a platform broadly palatable enough to reflect such a diversity of political opinions that the platform itself becomes almost totally diluted of ideological content. In place of mobilizing their voting base through intellectual means, the party would have to do so by drawing exaggerated and negative comparisons between it and its opposing party. Often times these comparisons come through assertions of a select set of carefully manipulated facts and statistics. Any voter within this system is faced either with the uncomfortable position of total disillusionment with both parties, or the affirmation of one of the parties, often times leading to the demonization of the other. This is how the tribalism of ideas takes place. In recognizing that neither of the two national political parties could accurately reflect the particularity of beliefs for any individual, the two-party political system incentivizes the identification with one, through the demonization of the other. With this demonization, comes the denial of the others knowledge claims, often at a near reflexive speed.

It is easy to demonize one party or the other for encouraging these kinds of political dialogues. However, it is important to note that they are as trapped within a competitive struggle which precludes any attempts to diversify the political landscape within their respective countries. Paul Ryan, the Republican Speaker of the House and *de facto* head of the GOP illustrated this point in February very clearly when, in addressing Donald Trump's unprecedented support among white supremacist groups, he stated that, "If a person wants to be the nominee of the Republican Party, there can be no evasion and no games. They must reject any group or cause that is built on bigotry. This party does not prey on people's prejudices. We appeal to their highest ideals. This is the party of Lincoln." Upon first glance, this appears to be a principled condemnation of bigotry in the US, and it is to an extent. However, when one takes a second look, it is clear Ryan omitted a crucial group with potentially bigoted views from condemnation: the people themselves. In fact, he casts those who most certainly do hold prejudices as the victims themselves! As opposed to stating unequivocally that the Republican Party does not want the support of anyone who votes based upon bigoted value systems, he chooses instead to assert that the Republican Party is above exploiting said prejudices. While this does on the surface appear to be preferable to pandering to the most despicable aspects of our culture, the end result is a society in which racism can persist largely unchecked, and without public debate.

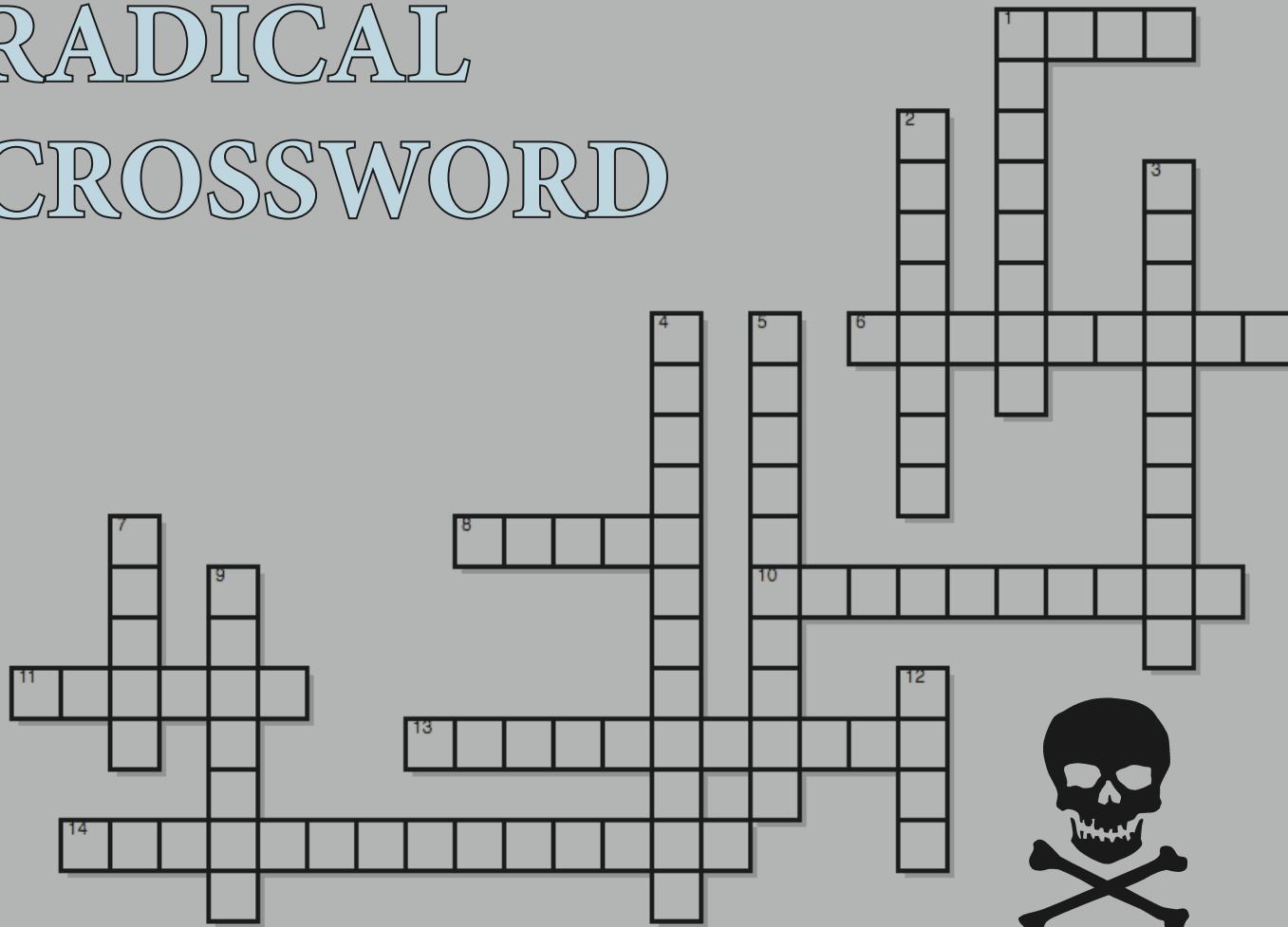
And yet, what can Paul Ryan, or any American political leader, do? Within a two-party system, introspection and self-condemnation must be punished. The tendency towards epistemological factionalism is precisely why epistemologies of ignorance are allowed to develop. One cannot question the validity of their own viewpoints if their's is the party of truth, and the other's is

the party of falsehood. Trump understands this better than most politicians, and has exploited our current situation with all the adeptness of a practiced bullshit artist. If one wishes to see the epistemology of ignorance regarding Trump one need look no further than Mr. Trump's own knowledge claims. After accusing a protester at one of his rallies of having ties to ISIS, and subsequently having this claim thoroughly debunked by news outlets, he justified his original assertion with this statement, "All I know is what's on the Internet." We are now entering the presidential election of the meme. Is it not fitting, then, that our presidential candidates should gather information the same way their supporters do?



FROM THE DAILY KOS

# RADICAL CROSSWORD

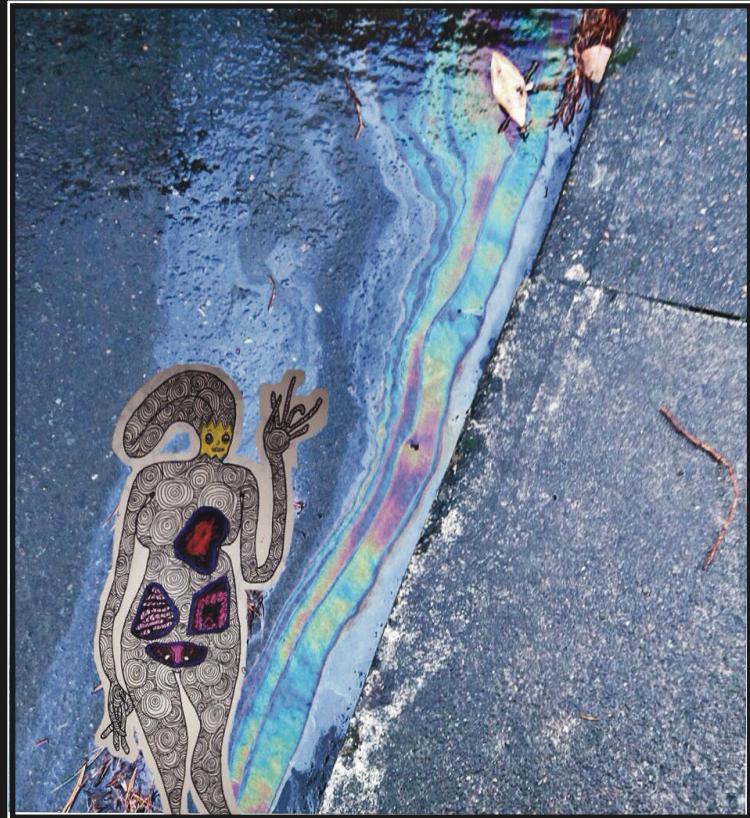


## ACROSS

- 1 all of them are bastards
- 6 a prolific Nihilist
- 8 we celebrate her on April 22nd
- 10 a failing economic system in which the means of production are mainly maintained by private individuals or corporations
- 11 eats brains for breakfast
- 13 a momentous tragic event ranging from extreme misfortune to utter overthrow or ruin
- 14 the displacement of low-income families and small business

## DOWN

- 1 a disastrous event marked by great loss and lasting distress and suffering
- 2 giant Japanese monster
- 3 widespread disaster
- 4 utter destruction
- 5 the process of a species dying out
- 7 obnoxious xenophobe whose presidency campaign seems like a sick joke but probably isn't
- 9 the first detonation of an atomic bomb
- 12 if they die, so does everything else



left: art by Laura Isabella  
right: art by Maddi Parvankin

ACROSS: 3. cops 6. Nietzsche 8. Earth 10. capitalism 11. zombie 13. catastrophe 14. gentrification  
DOWN: 1. calamity 2. Godzilla 3. apocalypse 4. annihilation 5. extinction 7. Trump 9. Trinity 12. bees

# MAD LIB

## for the apocalypse

She looked up at the \_\_\_\_\_ sky. Her \_\_\_\_\_ was  
adjective body part  
clenched and her body \_\_\_\_\_.  
verb ending in -ed

“THE \_\_\_\_\_ ARE COMING”... echoed in the distance.  
plural noun

Everyone was \_\_\_\_\_ to the underground safe house. They  
verb ending in -ing

\_\_\_\_\_ at her with \_\_\_\_\_ that were begging  
verb ending in -ed adjective body part (plural)  
for her directions. She ignored them.

She was their leader. They were \_\_\_\_\_ without her. In the beginning,  
adjective  
was confident about her abilities. But when the smell of \_\_\_\_\_  
verb ending in -ing  
\_\_\_\_\_ filled her \_\_\_\_\_, she froze. The sun set, and they  
noun body part  
arrived. Every \_\_\_\_\_ for himself.  
noun

# — A BROKEN System —



On October 16th, 2013, a helicopter sprayed herbicides over a significant portion of the town of Gold Beach, Oregon. Panic broke out throughout the town, people were collapsing and their medical clinic was scrambling to aid in any way they could, sadly to little or no avail.

In the weeks following, 45 people gathered themselves together and came forward with a wide array of symptoms, from chemical burns to respiratory problems to a number of neurological symptoms. Often there were combinations of two or more of these ailments.

Hungry for answers and reparations, they contacted agency after agency, business after business; yet, no one really seemed to care. It was weeks before they saw any experts, and even then, after it was clear that wrong had been done, there was no legal traction. An article or two was published in the months following, but at this point they didn't help much. Lax regulations, lax legislation, and close to zero accountability amounted to an uphill battle. "Uphill" doesn't quite cut it though; that hill was a cliff.

Aerial herbicide spraying proves a large part of the logging industry in Oregon; however, the chemicals used are relatively untested. Let alone the combinations of two or more of these chemicals, which is almost always how they are prepared. If you think the lack of regulations on these chemicals is exaggerated, please consider that 2,4-D is a primary ingredient in most, if not all of these herbicides. 2,4-D was also a primary ingredient in Agent Orange. And eventually, every single one of these affected people tested positive for it.

After over two frustrating years, the people of Gold Beach are finally on the road to victory. At the beginning of May, the trial against the helicopter company will begin. However, they still have one more hurdle to cross. In order to win this case, they will need some expensive expert testimonies from people undeniably qualified to assess the damages and the roots of the issue accurately. There's only a month or two left before the money is due, and they're unfortunately still very short on their goal. Aerial herbicide spraying has affected a number of communities up and down the Oregon coast as well as well into the heart of

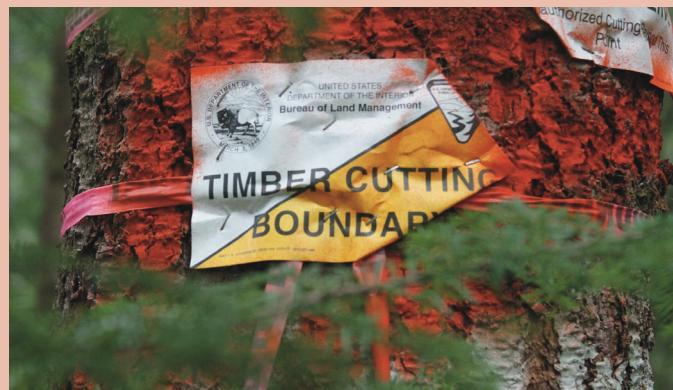


Small shrubs and seedlings poke through tree-stumped hills near Gold Beach, OR

Oregon. If you've been to the Oregon coast, there's a decent chance that you've driven though or around one of these communities, and if so you've probably not been too far away from where herbicides have been sprayed in the past. We sincerely urge you to think about how it might be to live in one of these affected communities. In the most prominent spraying of Gold Beach discussed here, the symptoms many of these people face will likely be permanent. 6 of the affected civilians were children, who will probably have to deal with this reality for the rest of their lives.

These people need our help. If this issue speaks to you at all, please if anything, we encourage you to read up on this further and spread the word to friends, family, whoever. If you'd like to get involved with our cause, we are leading a campaign on campus this term with OSPIRG to help raise the money necessary for these people to win this court case in stride. In the long run, this case would set the precedent essentially required for legislation to be passed this coming year in our state's congress. Finally, if you or anyone you know would like to donate directly to this cause, each and every dollar is so greatly appreciated. Links for all of these outlets, should you feel so inclined, are provided down below. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Written by Hunter Mackin and Blair Toy, Campaign Coordinators for OSPIRG Herbicides Campaign



**More information:**

<https://oheh.org/>

**Donations:**

<https://www.generosity.com/community-fundraising/oregon-herbicide-exposure-relief-fund>

Photo Cred: Hope Tejedas - Gold Beach, OR



# A knock on the door, a shout

What no one ever remembers is that Cinderella spoke French first and would therefore say things like "Je déteste les Etats-Unis" snickering over our chocolate bars made sans chocolate but avec the unpronounceable.

all in good fashion she presumed us in our white houses and thusly God bespoke:

"let those who eat the feast refuse to clean the mess"

— ahem, from the back row, Mr. President,

questions on our history—

even though 19th century Philadelphians

quite literally ate their mess

and diarrhea-d the rest on her nation's carpet

but being man he called himself Enlightened by it all—

now the human race doesn't blame God so much.

Or rather not as many people believe enough to blame

and so place it on others like the Koch Brothers and Elephants

which while controversial may prove to save a few more polar bears

at least after five years and with help from the International Community,

who met and decided that there would still be polar bears in five years

who will fortunately be saved by nations propped

by 75% dependence on fossil juice still worried

what will happen to their morning commute.

And the public

killing its brothers and sisters over the following:

spilled milk

communism

and peace efforts.

there's a rhythm to these habits

like stones on strings

or getting stoned before 8

this is what it was like to be a college kid  
in 2015:

standing drunk in front of bathroom mirror:

3:25 a.m. having just kissed

just laid down with just didn't ask questions etc.

pushing swelled face closer to the glass  
remembering how it felt in summer to  
live for its own sake outstretched to a dawn  
with dazzle, with mamas and pops proud—

back again to the mirror,

wondering if we could continue to be  
what we had decided to become

these are my knees, stained green in spring.  
up that hill,

the park where we pretended our lives were ending

and we just sat in the grass for a while thinking very big thoughts  
that we would not remember later, even when we have that awkward  
silence

at the vegan restaurant on 3rd.

here are the shells I took from your house

because I hated you.

in which one also becomes an adult:  
stark discoveries of how deep the ocean goes  
and bare feet on the moss— throwing the buoy  
to any restless soul, I saw and loved you already.  
Blessed the mothers of Bridgewater,

Wretched the phone call,  
the long fingered fear

may the holy schizophrenics stretch free limbs

You, Joshua, already biblical,

still your plea clatters their skulls

from a psychoactive muck, his desperate words:

"There are people in here who have killed their grandparents."  
you, who live amongst them, you who love your own grandmother  
claim innocence to a cement sky, lest we forget

the grandmothers in Lesotho,

where the river rises and rises

until their grandsons are just specks along fuzzy sand

which God made on the second day

made the sand and water extra brilliant, shining

like diamonds because he had no real ones left by the time

he got there

so that when the West would mourn the land's poverty,

the villages could say with clearer wisdom

"While we are very poor, nobody starves"

on the third day God created man and 5/4 jazz

then Billie Holiday, whose eternity existed in heaven

or Chet Baker, whose happiness was dazzle and his rocking body  
dittied for crowds

valentined the sweet-talking girls

feasted on too-big love

and died in ecstasy at the end of it all.

or the river, sobbing over the spilled yolks of her children,  
who factoried their bodies in grease and city.

the night fills with her roars, always churning or being churned  
by pursuits of full bellies and warm hearts who share beds with  
others who are also full and remember Billie,  
say things like "just let her play!" out the corner of your eye  
and you see her; and she, you.

stares. echoes

as you think of something to say,

but you still don't forgive her; nor she, you.

the party becomes awkward and the turkey is dry.

"birds don't sing" sally told her brother, and he knew she was right.  
We are all caught up in it, now, playing in the dollhouse till mothers  
call us in.

but once we were something,

don't know what but it was better and had bright wings.

there are big bright blues sometimes in my head

and I see them when I close my eyes tightly

and ask if I am (among the) living.

It is not enough to sit and be still

or middle class with college paid for,

the fear is eternal of death and coral reefs

and tigers under our beds  
and the whitewashing  
and the great whites  
who hail from far evolutions or outer space

Sugar canes swinging low, cinnamon bears in bulk:  
across the dazzling gossamer this is Christmas in Rochester  
and learning about mortality,  
like joy another victim of too much bad cop.

In the kitchen, summer smelled like Joey's hair.  
Joey, who hears his names in so many of my songs  
but cannot sing them back,  
may you rest in nectar on the verge of being born again.

I have an idea!  
let's get very old and rise sweetly  
early in the morning, wearing sweaters from a previous war  
or claiming that we made the bread, and it has risen.  
out in the bouts of wild roses and steady living,

we came to a brook, bound leather in our hands  
for the novel we will write, or not write depending on traffic.  
everything is done by the hands  
who speak even before the heart, the mind,  
our body a song, out of tune most and deaf some others

it is so easy to feel chained  
or locked out of the garden.  
but look about you, to the gates:  
your friends, still there, even from long ago—  
the wild things you've done since then!

the halls of our personal archives  
gaining new books, written by a typewriter  
in our heads who tends to favor our own fancies  
so smudges the stories on our side, for our sake.

The hello becomes when will I see you becomes  
how long have you been waiting

not long,  
but I'm glad you got here safely.  
your hands,  
so cold  
I feared you wouldn't last the train.  
here is the fleece from my only sheep  
here are my butterflies in their dreams,  
see how they shimmer?  
here is everything I have ever owned  
or stolen from someone who owned more—  
you can have it all if you set me free

the postman rounds the corner looking  
for a 2477 or 2472 depending on  
the way he held the sticky envelope.

he mused until he realized he'd skipped breakfast  
and felt quite hungry, so dropped it at the one closest:  
mine, leading me to open a letter with a single  
line, centered neatly amidst waxed white:

"I'm not coming back, Olivia"

maybe I spared her by forgetting it  
on the coffee table, then in the kitchen, then to thin air

let her think until she forgot, too,  
that he may come tomorrow  
at last in winter with the blinds down:  
I'm in love, America  
and begging to be lonely.

-- Derek Maiolo



"Follow your inner moonlight; don't hide the madness"

- Allen Ginsberg

# DOOMED TO REPEAT IT



In the spring of 1939, an ocean liner left Hamburg, Germany carrying over 900 Jewish people fleeing from the steadily escalating violence of the Nazi regime. It first sailed to Cuba, but they were turned away. Only two dozen people with valid tourist visas were allowed in. The passengers were not permitted to apply for political asylum. The captain next set sail for Florida, hoping the US would take them in, but no harbor gave the MS St. Louis permission to dock. Some Canadian academics and clergy members pressed their government to allow in the refugees, but a racist immigration official blocked this after convincing the Prime Minister himself. In desperation, the captain considered, on multiple occasions, running his ship aground and allowing the refugees to simply make a mad dash for safety on the beach, permission be damned. US Coast Guard boats tailed him while he was in American water to ensure he wouldn't be able to. Giving up, he returned to Europe, and refuge was found for the people in several European countries, including the UK, which took about 300. This however, did not ensure all of their safety because the Nazis then began the Second World War in September 1939 and invaded most of Europe, systematically rounding up Jews in every country they occupied, and deporting them to extermination camps to be killed. Over 250 of the original 900 died in the war.

This is precisely what happens when governments so thoughtlessly enforce border controls, no matter the cost. Refugees fleeing war, oppression, and genocide are turned away, and many end up dead when they could have survived, if only the state had let them cross an imaginary line, a border that we created. And it's happening again today, as it has happened many times before and since the Nazi Holocaust. The civil war in Syria has escalated and the country is falling apart. The murderous religious fundamentalists that make up ISIS are committing what amounts to genocide in territory they control in Syria and Iraq, and the Syrian government is torturing and murdering civilians daily.

None of this is to even speak of the more than 100,000 people who have died "accidental" deaths, caught in the crossfire between the government's troops and various rebel forces or blown to bits by the notorious "barrel bombs" the Syrian air force drops daily on rebel-held cities in Syria. The estimated death toll of the Syrian Civil War as of April 2016 is between 250 and 475,000, likely more than half of whom were civilians. Over 13 million people have fled their homes; the majority are internally displaced, meaning they fled one part of Syria and are staying in another, and 4-5 million are international refugees, having fled Syria to find safety in another country.

The overwhelming majority of these refugees have sought safety in Syria's neighboring states: over 2.5 million in Turkey, one million in Lebanon, and another one million in Jordan. The remaining refugees have sought safety in farther flung areas, many trying to go to Europe. Unfortunately, it is there where the lessons of the Nazi Holocaust have clearly not been learned. Though the entire European continent (home to 800 million people) is being asked to take in a smaller number of refugees than tiny Lebanon alone (home to only 4.5 million people), already European politicians and citizens are complaining of being "deluged" and "overwhelmed" by the number of refugees attempting to apply for asylum in Europe. For example, in Hungary, riot police were sent to the border to set up barbed wire in an attempt to stop the flow of refugees. Members of a far-right racist political party attempted to aid the police in pushing back the refugees, one female reporter in a notable incident swung her purse at a refugee man and cursed at him.

Other refugees attempt to make the journey to Europe by water, sailing in unsafe and overcrowded rafts on the Mediterranean sea. Though these rafts are death traps, and thousands have drowned in the past several years in the Mediterranean, it still costs many refugees more than a thousand euros to pay the rapacious people-



*Racists and out-and-out fascists across Europe take to the streets to demand an even crueler government response to the refugee crisis than it's already undertaking.*

smugglers to take them to Europe. That is easily enough money for a normal plane or boat ticket from Syria to anywhere in Europe, but legal methods are not an option for Syrians since most European Union countries have capped the numbers of refugees they'll accept at very low levels. One cannot simply board a plane in Damascus and fly for a few hours to Greece or Italy, not without proper documentation from state authorities.

The human cost of these policies is appalling; this is without question a humanitarian issue. As stated previously, thousands of Syrians have died at sea, trying to reach safety in Europe. Since the war began in 2011, estimates are that 2,000 refugees from Syria have drowned, and many thousands more refugees and migrants from other countries have also drowned in the Mediterranean in the last several years. In an agonizing moment, reported around the world, a Syrian Kurdish toddler, three-year-old Aylan Kurdi, drowned off the coast of a Greek island, along with his mother, brother, and a dozen others. A photo of the tiny, lifeless corpse of the little boy, face-down in the water on a beach in Turkey, quickly circulated through the Internet and the global media.

And his fucking blood is on the hands of politicians.

His family's application for refugee status in Canada had been recently denied. The politicians are the ones who appeal to the implicit racism of many of their constituents. They are also the ones who cite the financial cost of taking in refugees, in justifying the heartless policies that leave thousands of desperate people to

drown in the sea—needlessly! These are not natural deaths, these are murders! And the murders are going to continue, unabated, because the Syrian war has no end in sight and the racist, nativist backlash against refugees and migrants in Europe only grows more intense.

The US is just as guilty. Though for obvious reasons, no Syrian refugees will attempt to sail to the US in rafts, the US has officially accepted an absolutely pitiful amount of asylum-seekers. Racist Republican politicians, including so-called moderates like Jeb Bush, have called for only Christian Syrians to be accepted, exposing how truly deep-seated and vile their Islamophobia is. Stoking the fires of racial hatred, fascist presidential candidate Donald Trump has even gone so far as to call for a total shut-down of all Muslims entering the US for any reason.



*Aylan Kurdi, age 3, drowned at sea. A Turkish police officer approaches to collect his body. Aylan died along with his mother and 5-year-old brother.*

The world has clearly learned nothing from history, from the deadly and unnecessary consequences of turning refugees away and from valuing the taxpayer's dollar, borders, and state sovereignty more than human lives. The angry calls of anti-fascists and other outspoken citizens in Europe to stop the madness, and to welcome the refugees, have fallen on deaf ears. The public debate

rarely even broaches the question of moral responsibility or the human cost of refugee policy; mere technical quibbles about financial cost and cultural incongruities are all "both sides" of the useless political establishment ever seem to mention. The deaths will go on unimpeded, and when the next crisis inevitably occurs, we will be just as unprepared; many thousands more will die then too.

11 million  
11 million people  
11 million lost, innocent civilian people

And another 11 million suffering, living,  
Continuing to exist for them  
Aching for them, aching with their pain  
And carrying the nation,  
The weight of the aching nation,  
The war-torn nation  
So the war-torn, the burning nation,  
The burning nation won't fall  
And there won't be a lost  
Syrian nation

Overall:  
22 million people  
Still:  
11 million people  
Internally displaced  
Forced refugees  
Or dead

Dead  
Dead  
Dead

Lying dead in their graves

The blood is on the world's hands  
Collectively, the blood is on our hands

Syria may be far away  
But still, the blood is on our hands  
Help  
Help  
Together, we must help

11 million people  
Half the Syrian people  
Everyday,

More people are added to that number  
And more begin to live in fear, in pain, in agony

How many innocent people need to begin to suffer  
before we respond?

Now,  
13.5 million people  
Over half the Syrian people

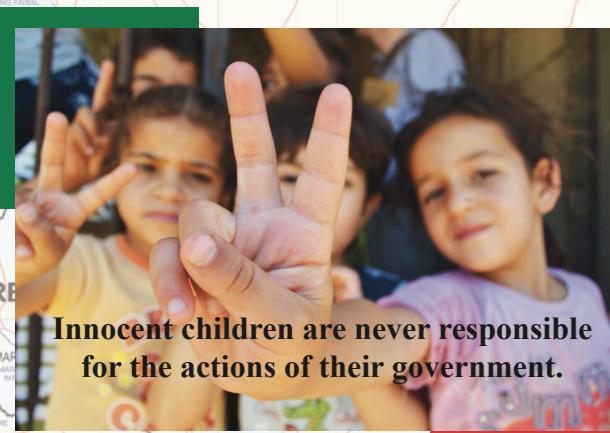
We must act

The time has come  
The time already came  
It's too late  
We must act now

Please wish and hope for  
peace in SYRIA.

We must not forget  
and  
we must help.

If New York City and Washington DC were  
in flames like Aleppo and Damascus,  
we would hope the world would help us too.



Innocent children are never responsible  
for the actions of their government.

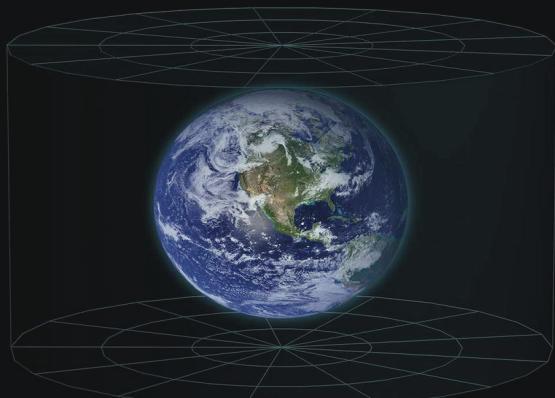
Amber Erkan

Once upon a time, in some out of the way corner of that universe which is dispersed into numberless twinkling solar systems, there was a star upon which clever little beasts invented knowing. That was the most arrogant and mendacious minute of "world history," but nevertheless, it was only a minute. After nature had drawn a few breaths, the star cooled and congealed, and the clever little beasts had to die. One might invent such a fable, and yet he still would not have adequately illustrated how miserable, how shadowy and transient, how aimless and arbitrary the human intellect looks within nature. There were eternities during which it did not exist. And when it is all over with the human intellect, nothing will have happened.

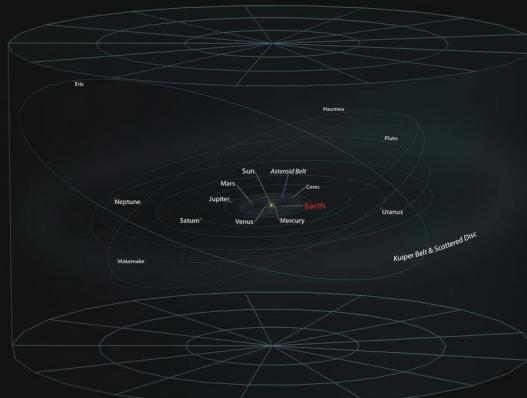
-Friedrich Nietzsche



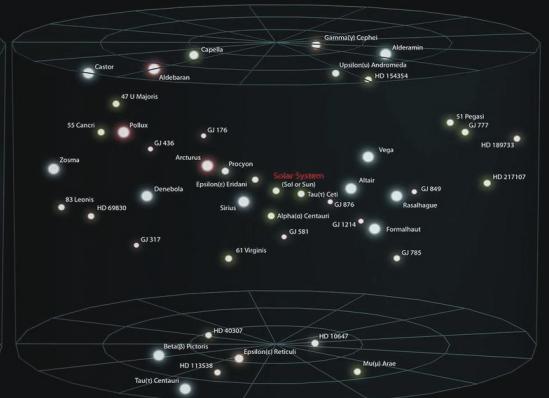
Earth



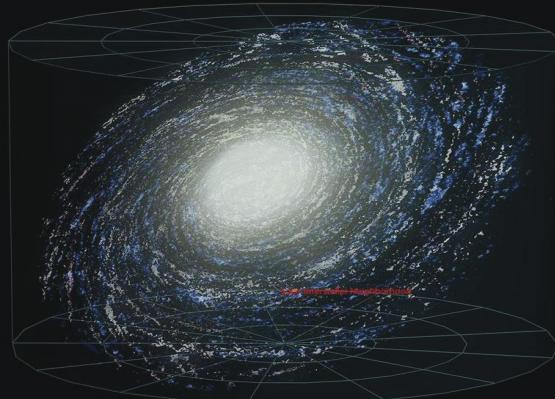
Solar System



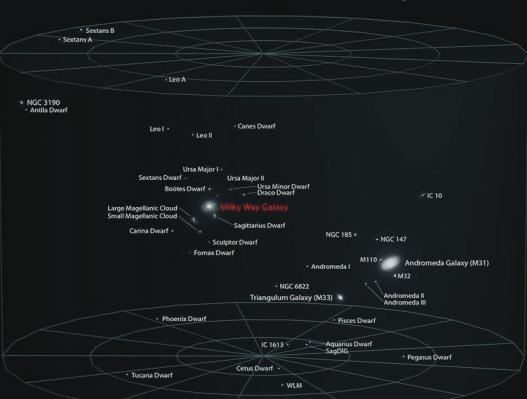
Solar Interstellar Neighborhood



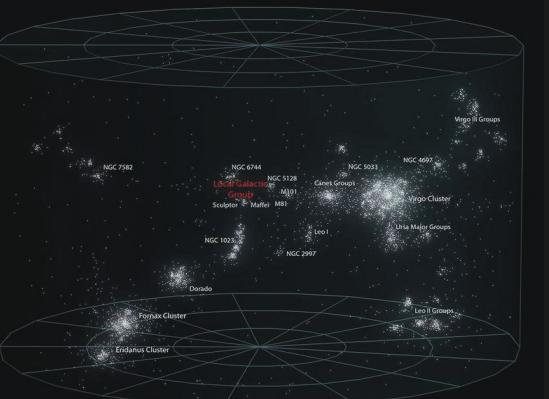
Milky Way Galaxy



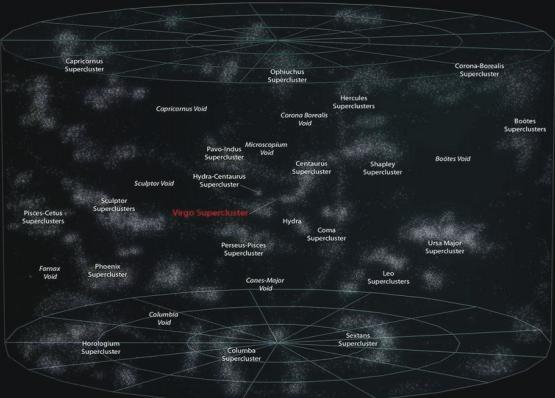
Local Galactic Group



Virgo Supercluster



Local Superclusters



Observable Universe



Don't masturbate



**GOD DOES NOT  
GIVE A FUCK  
ABOUT US**

# FEELING SCARED?

Do you sense that you're in danger?

That's not just nerves, you could be right—a **sense of impending doom** is a real symptom of many real, deadly medical conditions.



So if you're getting the slight feeling that you're not long for this world, you could be suffering from: ANAPHYLAXIS, MYCOPATHIAL INFARCTION, AORTIC DISSECTION, JELLYFISH STING, CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA, NUTMEG POISONING, OR PHEOCHROMOCYTOMA.

# You Thought You Were Safe?

Seriously, that's not a rhetorical question. Did you think we were out of the woods with nuclear weapons? The fog of the Cold War evaporated and The Bomb is no longer hanging over your head?

That's *laughable*.

The nuclear situation is as bad, or worse, than it has ever been. The likelihood of nuclear exchange, including global nuclear war, has only gone up since the end of the Cold War. Your chances of being vaporized in an explosion ten or a hundred or—yes—a *thousand* times the size of Hiroshima, or literally coughing your lungs out as you choke on radioactive fallout are higher than ever!

But you can't be faulted for being so naive. It's a powerful narrative that we're inundated with, one that serves elite interests. Firstly, Führer Reagan is dead and in the ground, and he was widely understood, not just among the radical milieu, as a reckless cowboy playing an insane game of brinksmanship against a desperate and failing Soviet regime. His aggression and provocation generated an inspiring grassroots anti-nuclear—or so-called “nuclear freeze”—movement. It put the fear of God into the peace movement everywhere. No longer was this a matter of morality, of opposing our murderous government's actions abroad because they're wrong (which they are, no doubt), this was now a matter of our own survival. It's often easy to ignore war and state terrorism because they don't affect us. Resistance is costly. Why risk going to prison or getting your skull caved in by the pigs to stop a war if it's only going to be foreigners on the other side of the world on the receiving end of our government's bombs? Such atrocities pose no direct threat, at least, to your own personal safety. But nuclear weapons change the game entirely. If they're ever going off, it means they're all going off, as two or more global powers attempt to permanently cripple each other by striking numerous major centers of population, industry, military hardware, and government institutions. There can't ever be a “limited” nuclear war, or a nuclear “skirmish.” And though they're widely recognized as a kind of suicide weapon—to use them against the enemy is to bring certain death upon yourself as well—our government, and the governments of other countries, have still come extremely close, on several occasions, to just saying “fuck it” and forfeiting the lives of billions of human beings and the welfare of every surviving one to win some geopolitical strategic conflict. A close analogy to this would be challenging your friend to a knife fight over a dispute in a board game.

But I'm digressing, back to the misconceived narrative that serves elite interests. The point is crazy Reagan's dead, the Soviet Union is gone with a greatly-weakened Russian Federation taking its place, and we're led to believe that the danger is over, the risk of multi-continental nuclear Holocaust ended in 1991. The grassroots anti-nuclear and peace movements have dissolved because the threat is no longer perceived as being all that pressing. People believe they are safe now, but nothing at all could be further from the truth.

The fact of the matter is, since the Cold War, nuclear weapons proliferation has accelerated and the number of countries with nuclear weapons is now nine.

India and Pakistan are at each other's throats over the disputed region of Kashmir. In the most recent episode of this violence in 2014, after Indian and Pakistani soldiers exchanged fire over the border, each country publicly threatened the other with nuclear attack. This is an ongoing trend, and both countries initially built their nuclear arsenals specifically in order to use them on each other.

North Korea and the US are locked in a perpetual match of provocation and counter-provocation. Though usually instigated by utterly trivial matters like—and I'm not joking, both of these really happened—the US catapulting propaganda leaflets over the border into North Korea and North Korea harassing South Korean fishing boats, these incidents frequently escalate into North Korean threats to launch nuclear strikes against South Korea, Japan, and the United States, followed by US promises to massively retaliate, which would annihilate all of North Korea.

China's rise to world superpower status in the past two decades also destabilizes the extremely fragile international nuclear order. As China asserts itself on the seas of the Pacific coast of Asia, US hegemony in the region is likely to decline. And as the US is currently responsible for South Korea and Japan's security, those countries are likely to build nuclear weapons of their own in the future, fearing they need them to defend themselves from Chinese and North Korean aggression, as the US may no longer be counted on to retaliate on their behalf.

Israel's unrelenting aggression and occupation of Palestine continue to prevent any stable peace in the country, and threaten the security of the countries in the surrounding region. Israel also possesses nuclear weapons, and frequently threatens to attack Iran. Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons

over the last decade is an effort to build a credible nuclear deterrent to Israel, to defend itself. Iran has actually proposed a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East. However, this proposition has been repeatedly blocked in the UN by Israel and the United States.

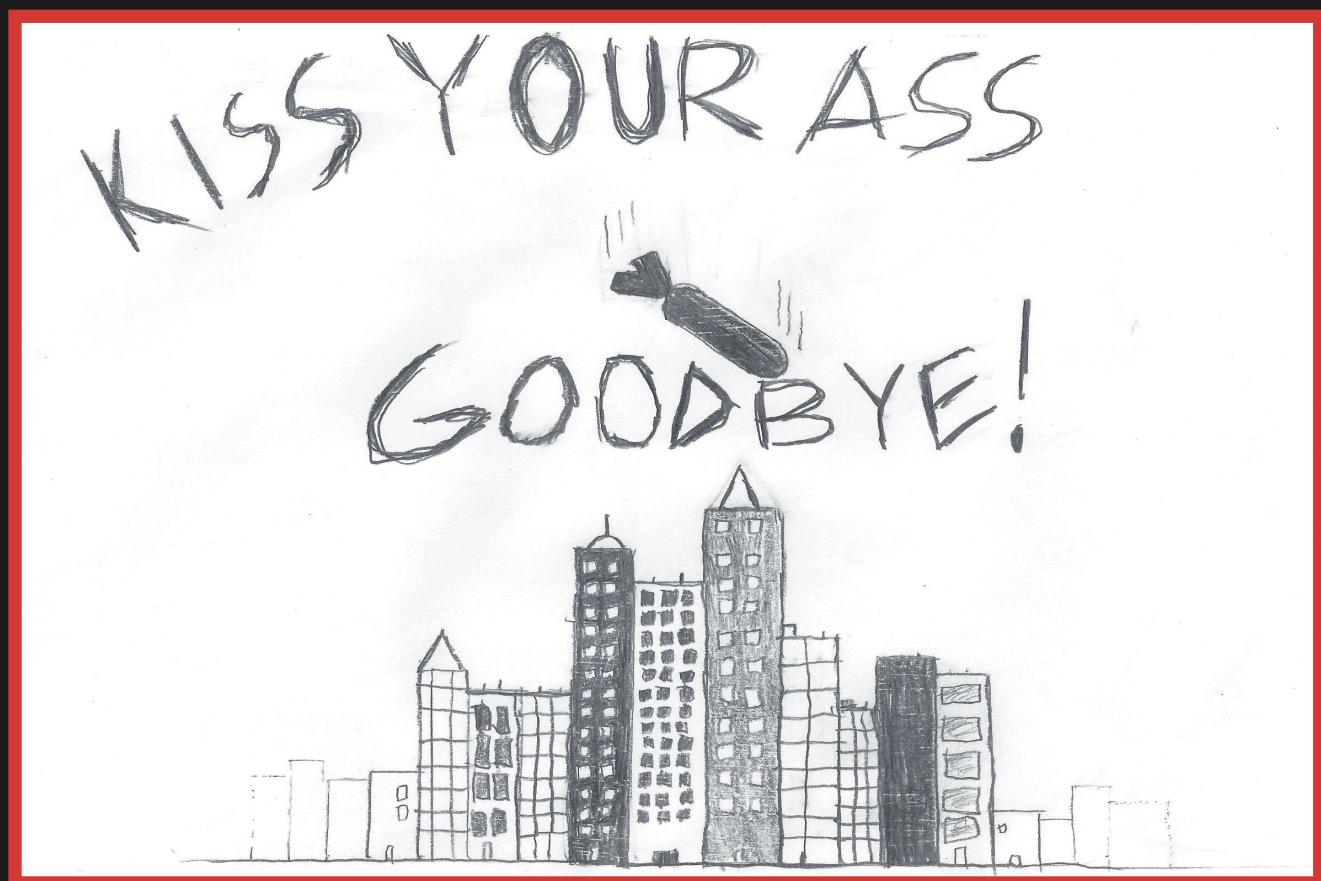
Unprovoked aggression against Iran is also an explicit part of the Republican party's platform in the United States, further pressuring Iran to pursue nuclear weapons to defend itself. If Iran were to gain nuclear weapons, it would lead to a domino effect. Every country in the region would then pursue its own nuclear arsenal. Israel and Iran are bad enough. Now imagine Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey with nuclear weapons as well. The threat of a possible nuclear exchange would increase exponentially, and the entangling alliances of several of these states with the US and Russia could easily turn a regional nuclear war into a global one as each country moves to defend their ally and strike their ally's enemy.

And speaking of the US and Russia, that's not over yet either. The end of the Cold War wasn't really the end of anything. The Soviet Union suffered a political crisis and lost significant power. It doesn't mean two hundred years of geopolitics and international relations are now irrelevant. Russia is on the rise again, puffing its chest and exerting its influence in Ukraine, Georgia, and Syria, and challenging the US as the sole remaining superpower in the world. Though Russia has not yet reached the same heights of power the Soviet Union once had as a truly globally influential force, the exact same conflicts are playing out. The US-supported revolution in Ukraine in 2014 has led to an insurgency in Eastern Ukraine,

which Russian troops are aiding. As the US and Russia rattle their sabers, they each make a show of publicly declaring that their nuclear missiles are in position and ready to fire. The US in particular likes to periodically move its NATO missiles in Europe closer to Russia, like a game of chicken; today they're in Germany, tomorrow Poland, next the Baltic. These games of brinksmanship are nothing new. Just like in the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and the NATO exercises in 1983, two incidents in which the world came dangerously close to nuclear Holocaust as both countries gave an order to launch their missiles against the other before canceling the orders at the last minute, we again threaten the possibility of more close-calls.

The duck-and-cover drills might be gone but the danger is still present. The stable order of nuclear weapons states is crumbling, and as climate change and global recession do a one-two punch to the world's economy, we can only expect the relative peacefulness we're enjoying in the world right now to disappear and be replaced with resource wars. Resource wars that could involve entangling alliances and the further proliferation of nuclear weapons, all of which will increase your chances of perishing in a radioactive inferno. All of which threatens the entirety of the human race with nuclear annihilation. Meaning you're fucked. And I'm fucked.

God help us all.



# American Culture Graveyard

## LEGO (1932 - 2008)

What happened to Lego? They used to be simple, affordable, and conducive to creativity and imagination. Now every fucking consumerist entertainment enterprise has their greedy little hands all over our bricks. Every piece is specialized; every set is attached to some movie, show, or video game (don't get me started on the stupid redundancy of the Minecraft themed sets); and every single box costs triple fucking digits. I remember my childhood when I got my first Lego set and said, "Damn, what a great toy that will fuel my creative ambitions, offering a momentary escape from the pervasive spectacle of consumer society, and resistance to the alienation from the fruits of my labor induced by the capitalist mode of production." Well maybe I didn't say that, but I was definitely thinking it. Now as I grudgingly fall into the realities of adulthood, I watch another aspect of my innocent youth be torn from my fingertips with an even greater pain than stepping on one of those two by four studded bricks.



## Yahoo! (1995 - 2012)

The Yahoo! homepage was always there to greet us with relevant news headliners like "Baby and Kitten Share a Glass of Milk" or "What Happens When a Horse Discovers a Kiddie Pool? You Won't Believe It!" In their glory days, Yahoo! provided a great mail service for middle-aged dads with their first internet-connecting device. And don't forget Yahoo! Answers, which never failed to educate curious teens about edible condoms. One thing we can all say about Yahoo! is, "They gave it a try!"

## Beanie Babies (1993 - 1999)

Many of our mothers have collections of these bean-stuffed velvety toys in a giant tupperware container in the basement. Some of us may even display these cuties on the dashboard of our 2006 Chevy Suburbans. Those little bears are still out there. However, they are struggling to get by. Unloved, unvalued: they are the silent victims of a socio-economic experiment. Beanie Babies provided America's middle class a glimmer of hope in trying times. They provided America's toddlers with yet another disposable toy.

## Occupy Wall Street (2011 - 2012)

Occupy inspired social activists and pot enthusiasts, young and old, to set up camp in America's parks. Although the movement was slaughtered by conservative media and police violence, Occupy was amazingly successful in sending a strong and putrid message to the Wall Street coke addicts. It's true that income equality has not significantly improved in the years following Occupy's death. However, Occupy's decaying corpse has provided essential nutrients for today's impactful movements like Bernie's revolution and Black Lives Matter.

## LMFAO (2006 - 2012)

From "Party Rock" to "Sorry for Party Rocking" to "Party Rock Anthem," this once iconic band provided the middle school dance floor with an impressive variety of pump-up tracks. Although they're currently on hiatus, LMFAO's inspiring lyrics still ring true. If LMFAO were here today, they would want to be remembered for their most popular song, so let's take a moment to let their wise words sink in: "Step up fast and be the first girl to make me throw this cash. We got money, don't be mad. Now stop! Hating's bad."

## Crocs (2002 - 2008)

America's beloved multi-purpose, multi-colored, all-ages shoe suffered an irreparable drop in stock price at the start of the recession. Crocs continued to melt into a rubbery-rainbow mess through the turn of the decade. Fond memories with Crocs include watching our mothers water tomatoes in the backyard and customizing the perforated material with Jibbitz charms. Although Crocs have lost their widespread appeal, you might be able to spot a pair on an ironically-dressed college hipster.

## Privacy (0 - 9/11/2001)

Google Earth and Streetview have put the entire planet under the harsh of the digital camera lens. All cameras are surveillance cameras, and we've got them in our pockets and on the tops of our computers, staring into our bedrooms all day every day. Every byte of your Internet activity and electronic communication: email, texts, phone calls, are read, listened to, and catalogued by NSA spooks. This is no longer conspiracy theory, Snowden confirmed it all and worse. The GPS data in your smartphone is functionally equivalent to a tracking chip the government's got shoved up your ass. They know where you go and they know where you've been. And you paid for the privilege!

# Rising from the Ashes

## Introduction

Here at the Insurgent, we like to think we're "putting the rad in radical." That's all good and fun, as long as we commit ourselves to the radical just as much as the rad. We've got a lot of problems in this world, and printing a few thousand magazines out of tree carcass isn't going to fix anything. We're asking you, our readers, to join us in actively combatting the issues that are leading to the demise of our planet and our humanity.

As much as we might have convinced you, we're not completely doomed (yet, anyway). But it's going to take a hell of a lot of work to turn things around. Work doesn't mean sharing an article on Facebook or putting a Bernie sticker on your MacBook. Work doesn't even mean sorting your recycling or buying organic food. Work means organizing campaigns, protesting, getting your hands in the dirt and cleaning up that river bed. Work means growing your own food and volunteering at elementary schools and continuously educating yourself and others. It means investing your energy and compassion into a tangible, beautiful, and constructive project. It means unrelenting attack against the forces of oppression. It means using disruptive direct action to effectively prevent the application of state violence to so many people. And work means change.

In order to change our realities, we must radicalize our compassion and build a personal imperative to solve the world's issues with our own hands. We cannot wait for someone else to do the dirty work. Let's get rad, let's get radical, and let's rise from the ashes.

## No Days of Wine and Roses

by Timothy J. Muise

There are no days of wine and roses in my world; only tiresome periods of rancid water and wilted hedgerows. Memories of better times are like bars of gold to my lonesome soul. Sentenced Zombies pace the walkways of my purgatory and I shuffle in behind, lost in my own disillusioned trance.

Braggadocio begins to make my ears bleed and ignorance personified is a stinging acid to my blurry eyes. Lead boots with which I walk carry me in labor from one meaningless act to the next; a rusted gerbil wheel of hopelessness. No rehabilitation in my range of vision, only a stark view of the walking dead. Graves fill with the hearts of men defeated, hopeless and hollow.

Somewhere from a place inside my frail vessel of flesh a murmuring of strength wells up, slowly at first but building an ever steady momentum. It awakens a vibrant beast with sharp vision and blazing foresight. Strong wings sprout from my wide back and taut muscles expand on my calves as I leap toward the walls that cage me. Over the concertina wire I fly, claws tearing at the perimeter of my hell as I depart. Soaring free—sweet victory!

To know hell is to know that heaven exists. Sweet wine and fragrant roses truly do dwell outside the misery of the modern day gulag. You can break free from the prison of the heart and concrete will crumble, steel will bend, and the cage that once held the man superior will only be a thing of a distant, fading past. No prison can hold our potential when we realize it and break it loose. God wills it.

For me the challenge of the system is a must, it is who I am, or who I am destined to be. I am that man that the oppressor fears as it is who God intended me. The victory is mine and I share it with you as you are me—forgiven.

## Civic Agriculture

We are decimating our oceans by over-fishing and over-consuming marine populations. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are threatening our planet's biodiversity. Large food corporations make billions of dollars advertising food that is causing heart disease and obesity. Fast food workers are some of the lowest paid laborers in our country, and farm workers are over-exposed to pesticides every day. Industrialized food production and distribution is dependent on an unlimited supply of fossil fuels, soil, and water, all of which are finite resources. Minimum wages are not keeping up with high inflation rates that are causing food costs to skyrocket.

It may seem like we are stuck in this horrific cycle of labor and natural resource exploitation, ecosystem destruction, and commodification of our most basic human need. We all need to eat, so we can't boycott this system. Right?

Well think again! In fact, farms all over our country (and all over the world) are building systems of community-based agriculture, or civic agriculture. Civic agriculture is the idea that local food systems can stabilize regional and local economies and combat climate change. Civic agriculture promotes a network of farmers, families, neighbors, and students. This enthusiasm manifests in community gardens, farmers markets, grange halls, and school garden programs. The Eugene/Springfield area boasts over a dozen grange halls like Urban Farm on the UO campus, Food for Lane County farms, a weekly farmer's market, elementary school gardens, an active beekeeping community, OSU's Master Gardener program, the Avant Gardeners, thousands of home gardens, and a lot of dedicated and passionate farmers. Although these resources can't fix the global food crisis all on their own, their grassroots activism is important and inspiring. The food community is combatting the issues they care about by getting out there and sticking their hands in the dirt. Give it a try!



# radical classifieds.

## resources & local activism.

### Allied Students for Another Politics (ASAP)

- Anti-authoritarian student group seeking to end all forms of oppression
- Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR
- Facebook: Allied Students for Another Politics
- Email: asap-insider@lists.riseup.net

### Food Not Bombs

- Eugene chapter of the loosely affiliated international network of collectives providing free vegan meals to any who want them
- Phone: 530 521 4991
- Email: eugenefoodnotbombs@gmail.com

### Sexual Awareness Advocacy Team (SWAT)

- University of Oregon
- Email: swat@uoregon.edu
- Website: swat.uoregon.edu

### Rose City Antifa

- Anti-fascist network based out of Portland, OR
- Voicemail: 971 533 7832
- Email: fight\_them\_back@riseup.net

### Radical Organizing Activist Resource Center (ROAR Center)

- Home to student groups at University of Oregon such as Student Labor Action Project, Student Insurgent, UO for Bernie, and Climate Justice League
- Library of radical books, publications, and pamphlets that are free for all UO students to use
- EMU South at Mac Court

### Anarchist Black Cross

- Eugene, OR chapter of the more than a century-old network of anti-prison activists
- Email: socialunlimited@gmail.com
- Address: Eugene ABC c/o Student Insurgent ROAR Center / 1228 East University Street / Eugene, OR 97403

### Women's Center

- Home to many University of Oregon student groups
- Email: womenctr@uoregon.edu
- EMU South at Mac Court

### Multicultural Center (MCC)

- Home to many University of Oregon student groups
- Black Student Union, LGBTQA+, Native American Student Union, Black Women of Achievement, Arab Student Union, and more!
- Website: inclusion.uoregon.edu/mcc
- Email: uoregonmcc@gmail.com
- Phone: 541 346 4321

### The Innocence Project

- Legal help for innocent, DNA evidence cases only
- Address: 100 5th Avenue / 3rd Floor / New York, NY 10011

### Books sold by mail!

- 100 page catalogue available
- Address: Edward R Hamilton / PO Box 15 / Falls Village, CT 06031-0015

### Blick Art Supplies

- Free 400 page catalogue!
- Address: PO Box 1769 / Galesburg, IL 61402-1769

### Nasco Arts and Crafts

- Free catalogue for mail orders!
- Address: PO Box 901 / Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

### Pen Pal Connection

- Provides penpal services, books, and gifts
- Write to SASE for more info
- Address: PO Box 1352 / Elgin, SC / 29045

### Prisoner Art, Inc.

- Sells prisoner arts and crafts online for you!
- Address: PO Box 69586 / Seattle, WA 98168-9586

### Access Catalogue, Co.

- Catalogue of products for prisoners
- Electronics, MP3 players, shoes, headphones, etc.
- Address: 10880 Linn Page Place / St. Louis, MO 63132

### Climate Justice League

- University of Oregon climate activism including divestment
- Website: climatejusticeleague.weebly.com/





# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS THE POWER ISSUE

**It's useful to think of power in two ways:  
Power in the sense of empowerment and  
power in the sense of coercive authority.  
Power to act versus power over other  
people.**

**Consider what power is and how it  
operates in your own life.  
The next issue will be devoted to all  
things related to power!  
Submit your art, poetry, prose, fiction,  
and essays about the empowered, the  
disempowered, and the powerful.**

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Eugene, OR 97403

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[studentinsurgent.tumblr.com](http://studentinsurgent.tumblr.com)

The Student Insurgent  
1228 East University Street  
Eugene, OR 97403

“It’s an alien apocalypse! Quick, grab the beer!”

-- Rick Yancey, *The 5th Wave*

“The End is Nigh!” the man shouted.

“Is there still time for hot chocolate?” Riley asked.

The-End-is-Nigh guy blinked. “Ah, maybe, I don’t know.”

-- Jana Oliver, *Forgiven*

“Don’t wake me for the end of the world unless it has very good special effects.”

-- Roger Zelazny, *Prince of Chaos*

“How baffling it is that we imagined cities incinerated by alien bombs and death

rays when all they really needed was Mother Nature and time.”

-- Rick Yancey, *The Infinite Sea*

“If the world is dead, at least it took Applebee’s with it.”

-- Sean Platt and David Wright

